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November 25, 2013 — February 2014 Issue
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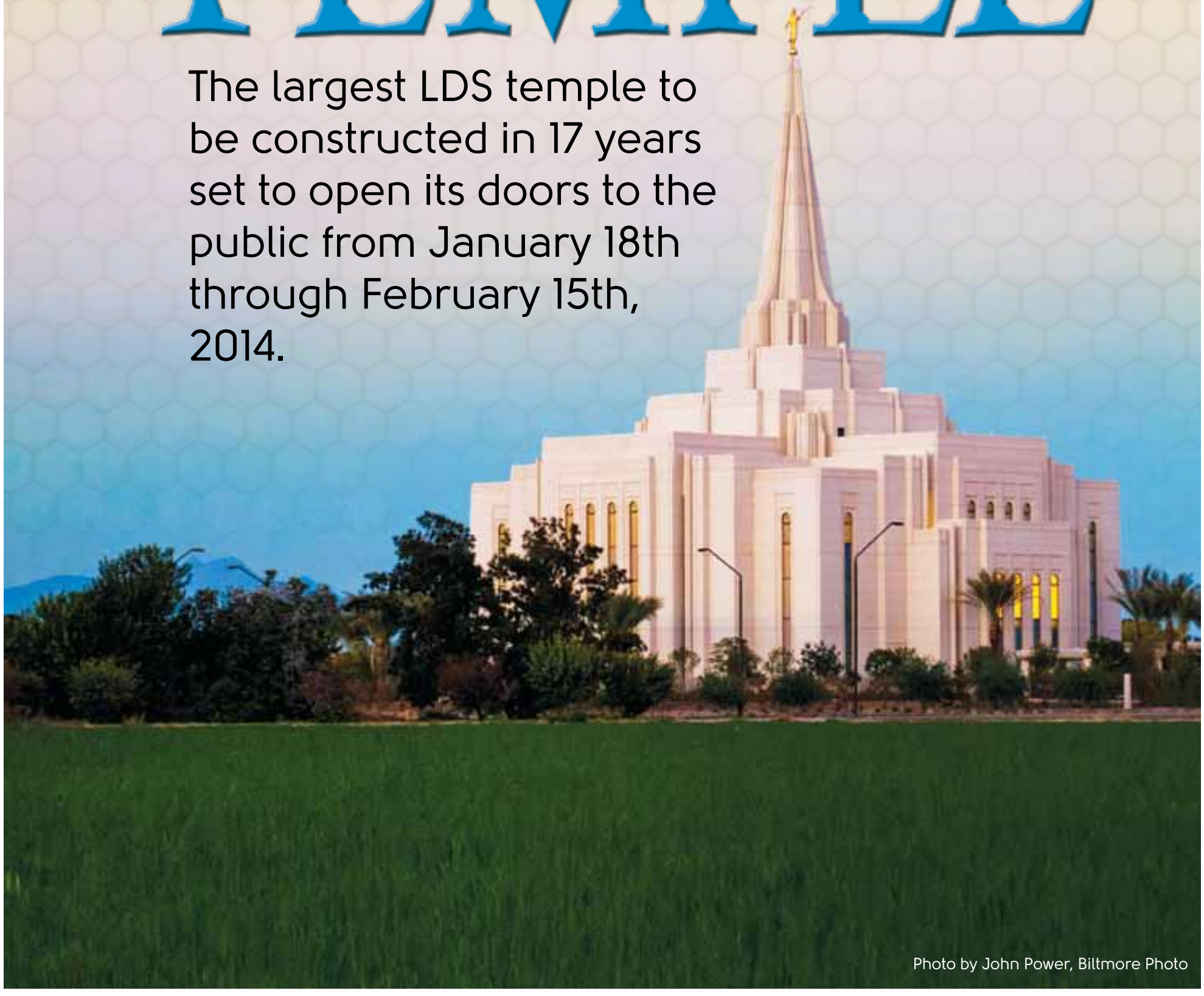
THE GILBERT ARIZONA TEMPLE

The largest LDS temple to be constructed in 17 years set to open its doors to the public from January 18th through February 15th, 2014.



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The Beehive is now distributed in 113 locations including many Frys, Albertsons, 7-Eleven and Kmart stores, as well as several local LDS businesses throughout the valley. For a complete listing of where you can pick up a FREE copy of The Beehive, please visit www.ArizonaBeehive.com and click on "Distribution." You may also read an entire issue of The Beehive online on our website under the "Issue Archives" section.

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Gilbert Arizona TEMPLE to Open for Public Tours in January

The Gilbert Arizona Temple will be open to the public for free tours from Saturday, January 18 thru Saturday, February 15, excluding Sundays, and will be dedicated on March 2.

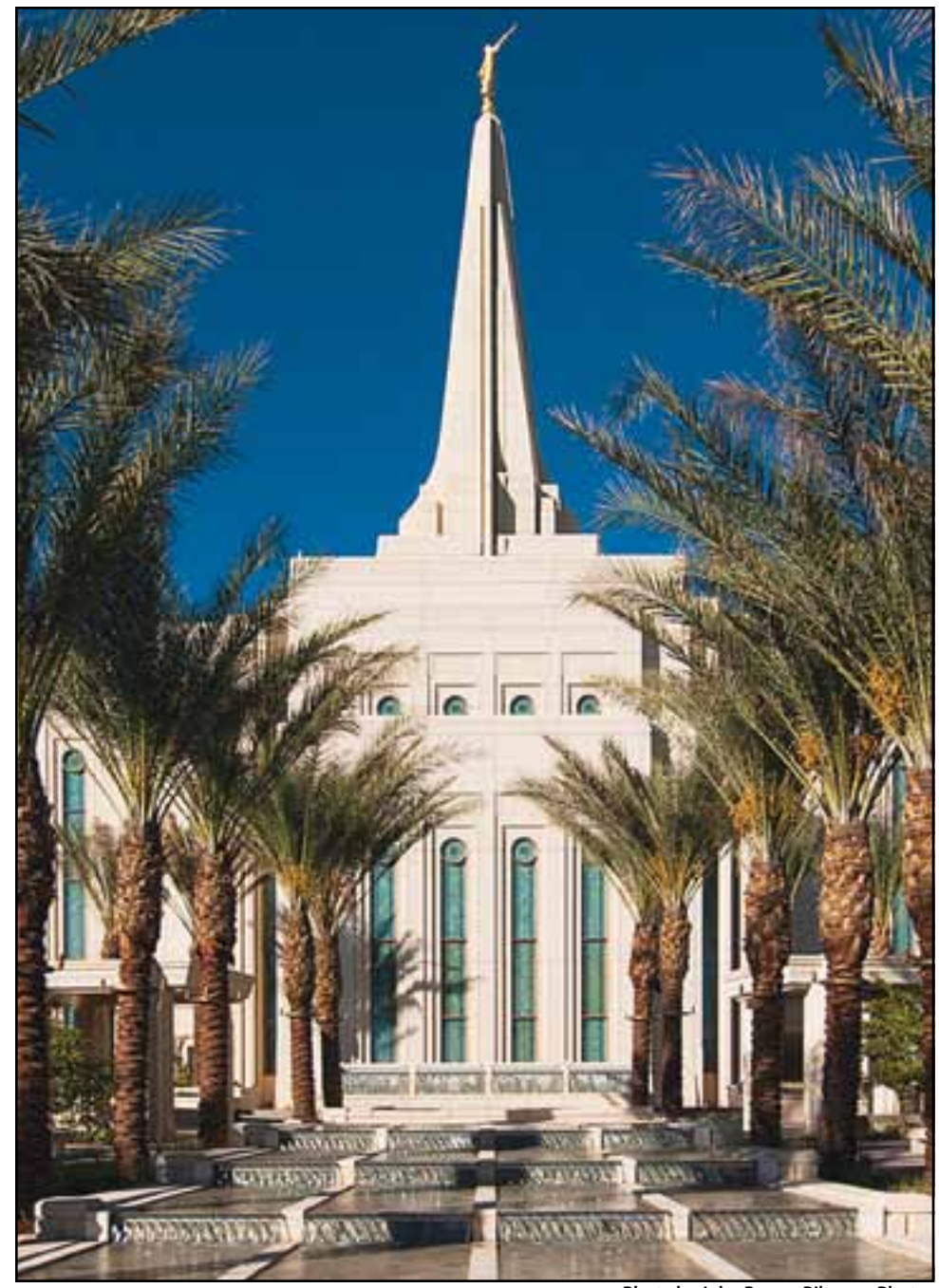

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Since the April 2008 announcement that a temple would be built in Gilbert, Ariz., Latter-day Saints in that area and across the state have watched the progress and looked forward with eager anticipation to the opening of a temple in their midst.

In October, the announcement came: The day so many had waited for was just a few months away.

The Gilbert Arizona Temple, the fourth in Arizona, now stands on the southeast corner of Greenfield and Pecos roads. With a spire that reaches 195 feet, it is not only among the tallest buildings in the East Valley, its 85,000 square feet makes it the largest temple the Church has constructed in 17 years.

In January 2014, the doors of the Gilbert Temple will open to the public, welcoming all—including children of

Continued on pg. 7

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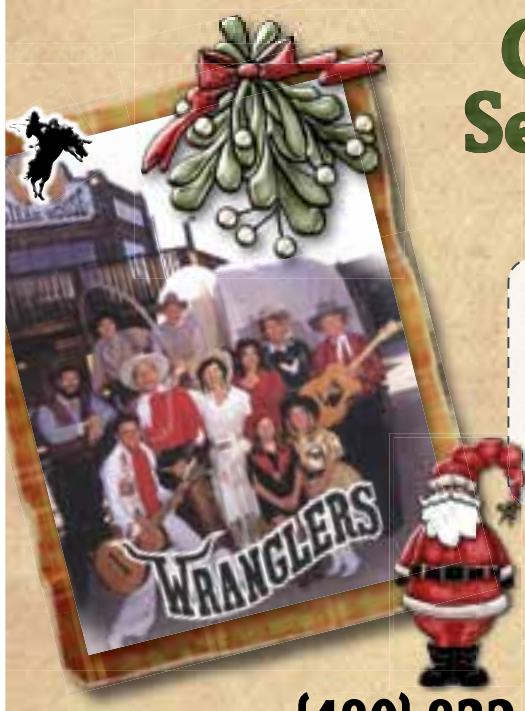

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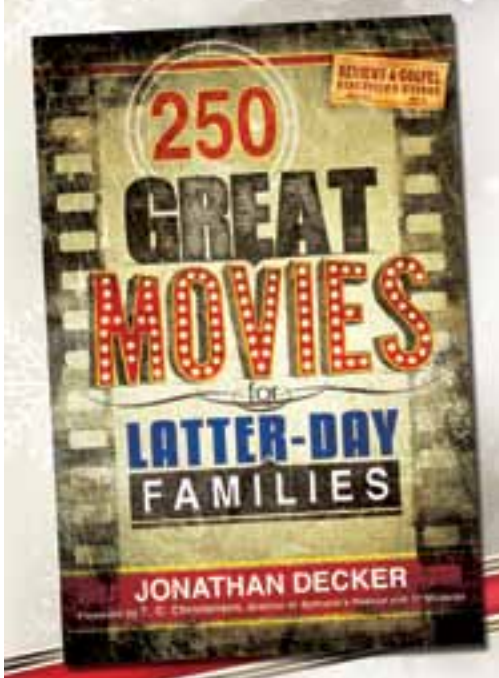

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Photo by Marie Renard

Young Women Learn to

STAND

IN HOLY PLACES

The Young Women from the Elmwood Ward completed 2,200 baptisms for the dead, indexed 22,000 and culminated with a 22-mile walk from the Gilbert Temple to the Mesa Temple

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Based on the Church-wide theme for 2013, Young Women around the world were challenged to "Stand Ye in Holy Places."

That theme—and the number 22—were not only taken to heart, but were put into meaningful action by the Young Women of the Elmwood Ward, of the Mesa Central Stake.

According to YW President Tana Alldredge, "Even before the theme was announced, we started wanting to do a simple walk with the girls to the Mesa Temple. It soon became bigger and much better."

They were inspired by the story of John Rowe Moyle, as related in the DVD "Only a Stonecutter," who, for 20 years, walked 22 miles to work on the Salt Lake Temple, even after losing a leg in an accident.

"Based on that, the Young Women leaders planned a 22-mile walk from the Gilbert Temple to the Mesa Temple. They also challenged the girls to do baptisms for 2,200 family names, to memorize 'The Living Christ,' and to index 22,000 names," says Damon Wheeler, second counselor in the bishopric.

"The challenges encouraged the girls to grow mentally, socially, physically and spiritually," says Sister Alldredge. She added that over the course of the 10-month effort, "The girls far exceeded the goals—we completed more than 3,000 baptisms and indexed more than 38,000 names."

Hallie Shill, 18, and a Laurel, made it a goal to do baptisms for the dead each week. "As time went on, it became a habit," she says. "I love going through the temple doors, leaving aside the stress, worries, schoolwork, and everything else, and just focusing on the temple and the sacredness of it and the spirit I feel."

Kendyl Wolfe, 17, also a Laurel, found an added bonus from participating. She says, "It has given me a reason to go and do temple work, all while becoming closer to all the Young Women who would come with us every Saturday morning."

For 17-year-old Laurel, Maci Hiatt, "Each time I did baptisms for the dead, I could feel the Holy Ghost so strongly and it strengthened my testimony that the temple is truly the House of God."

Sage Wheeler, 16, and a Laurel, also enjoyed indexing names for FamilySearch. "It›s not very often that a teenage girl would get excited over indexing public records from the 1800s, and even though at first it was difficult and challenging, it soon became second nature and surprisingly really fun," Sage says. "It gave me a good feel-

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Young Women Stand
Continued from pg. 6

ing to know that I was helping people around the world find their ancestors. I plan to continue indexing even though our challenge is over."

According to Brother Wheeler, families were invited to support the girls in their efforts.

"A neat part of the whole thing was to see brothers, sisters, moms, dads, everyone got involved," he says.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, at 9 a.m., the 30 Young Women and their leaders gathered at the Gilbert Temple site for their culminating event—the 22-mile walk to the Mesa Temple.

"We had prayer before starting out, and it was a really neat thing to see all those girls who had been working together for all those months," Sister Alldredge says.

Young Women of the Elmwood Ward, Mesa Central Stake, celebrate the near-completion of nearly a year's worth of efforts to demonstrate their willingness to "Stand Ye in Holy Places."

Photo by Marie Renard

The walk itself taught Maci, "We can do hard things. After the 15th mile, my legs were on fire, I was tired, and the idea of stopping sounded appealing. However, I just kept putting one foot in front of the other and eventually made it to the Mesa Temple."

She compared this to life's lessons, saying: "No matter the difficulty of the trial that comes in our path, we will be able to overcome it with the Lord on our side."

Sage agreed, saying, "Walking 22 miles from temple to temple was the hardest thing I›ve ever done, physically, mentally, and emotionally. The walk provided us the opportunity to not only grow together as a Young Women›s group, but also to grow closer to our Heavenly Father."

Kendyl, too, felt the importance of working together. She says, "Each one of us is on our own journey in this life, but we can›t reach that goal without all the support and love from everyone around us."

"After a while, you started to ignore the pain of the blisters and the soreness of your feet. all you could think about was reaching your finish line, the temple, Hallie says, "I learned that the temple should always be our finish line. It should always be our goal, to be worthy to enter into our sacred home."

"As we were running towards the temple, and I saw all of our families cheering us on," Kendyl says, "It strengthened my testimony that the temple is the one place that families can be together forever; it truly is heaven on earth."

Gilbert Arizona Temple Tours
Continued from pg. 4

all ages—to tour the temple during the four-week open house, scheduled for Saturday, January 18, through Saturday, February 15, 2014, excluding Sundays. Admission is free, but reservations are requested. To make reservations, visit www.gilbertmormontemple.org. Modest dress is suggested for the open house.

"I cannot wait to bring my friends to tour the temple when the open house begins," says Sharon Slater, of the Gilbert 9th Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake. "So many of them are curious, and now we have this amazing opportunity for people to tour the inside before it is dedicated. Regardless of someone's faith, they will likely find touring the temple to be a wonderful experience."

Following the open house, on Saturday, March 1, 2014, a cultural celebration, involving 12,000 area youth, will commemorate the heritage of the region through narration, song, and dance. The celebration will be broadcast to meetinghouses in the area.

The temple will be dedicated Sunday, March 2, in three sessions (9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.) open to those with a recommend. The Sunday block meetings will be cancelled, and the dedication will be broadcast to stakes and districts in Arizona.

The Temple opens Tuesday, March 4, 2014, for all patrons. Visitor facilities that were open during construction are permanently closed, and visitors are not permitted on the temple site until the open house begins.

When the temple was announced, President Thomas S. Monson said, "It is my personal priority to make sure members of the Church have access to the blessings of the temple."

As the 142nd operating temple in the world, the Gilbert Temple will soon help Arizonans have greater access to those blessing.

AN OPEN LETTER TO BEEHIVE READERS
Answering Your Questions About Estate Planning

"Should I Put My Child's Name On My Bank Account?"

Maybe you are one of those parents who is lucky enough to have adult children living close by to help out with finances and paying bills. Some of those parents occasionally decide to put an adult child's name on their bank accounts in order to facilitate this arrangement.

While this strategy may seem like a reasonable solution on the surface, it is not a recommended approach. First of all, if your child's name is presently on your bank account, the child has equal ownership of the assets. This "joint account" gives the child the legal right to withdraw money for any purpose. Right now! The money belongs to the child as much as it belongs to you.

A second problem arises if your child has creditors or is married. The money is considered fair game for your child's creditors, and could also be subject to the claims of your child's spouse. If your child or child's spouse runs into financial trouble, your account could be emptied out overnight. It happens more often than you might think.

Another pitfall with putting a child's name on your bank account presents itself after your death. Once you have passed away, the bank account now solely belongs to the child in whose name it is listed. If you have multiple children, you may have intended that the one child split the money with each child. But legally, the listed child is not obligated to share anything with anyone.

If your children are young or you don't have any children, you may have put a sibling or a friend on the account. The same problems are present.

The bottom line is this: putting anyone's name on your account makes them an immediate owner. Also, what you intend to do with your money is not always exactly what plays out. Before you make such decisions, it is wise to consult with an experienced Estate Planning Attorney who can explain the pros and cons of various strategies, and explore other options that might be better suited to your situation.

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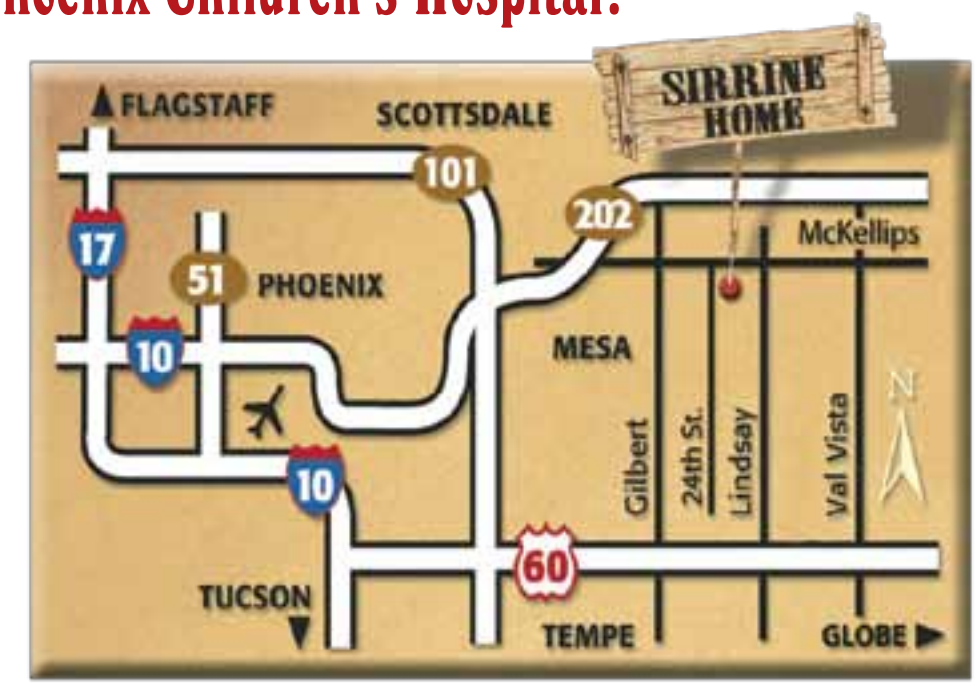
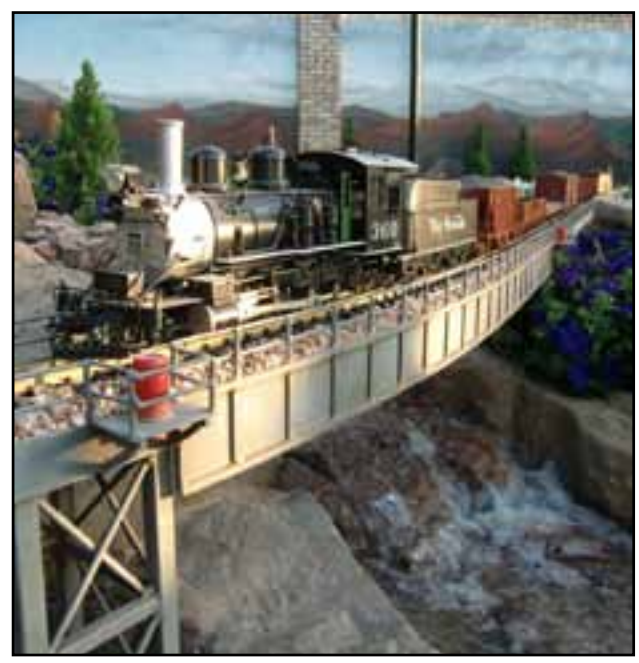


A Must See for the Christmas Season!



SNOWSTORM

Makes Youth Trek a More Authentic Experience

What might look like a historical photo of pioneers in a snowstorm on their trek to the Salt Lake Valley is actually a picture of members of the Mesa North Stake who, while involved in a youth pioneer trek in October, were caught in an early storm near Forest Lakes, Ariz.

Photo by Mike Heaton

By Jill Adair
The Beehive

What was hail and sleet through the night turned to huge snowflakes, just as the 165 youth showed up early in the morning on Oct. 10, says Mike Heaton, stake Young Men president.

Rachel Jensen, 17, a Laurel in the Fairfield Ward, said even though it was "so cold" it was great to see the youth get with their families and bond quickly as they worked together.

She recalls Stake President Jay Leavitt advising everyone to get ready to get on the trail and saying that the storm would soon clear up, and it did.

"It was sunny and starting to dry up just as we were ready to go," she said.

Brother Heaton snapped the photo on his cell phone of trail bosses Shane Rohner, left, and Kent Riggs, right, as they watched the youth prepare their handcarts. He said he was glad to have captured such a "unique experience," adding that they all felt more like the pioneers and he didn't think anyone would've changed the weather, even if they could have.

Arizona Big Train Operations Open backyard railroads for annual Christmas tour

This Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO) 2013 Christmas Open House and Tours is an annual event that is fun for "kids of all ages." The public is invited to see the backyard G-scale railroads in action at 13 ABTO members' homes as well as the indoor train layout at the Cardon Children's Medical Center.

The railroads are located around the Phoenix area and will be open from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., some on Friday and Saturday, others on Saturday and Sunday, December 6, 7 and 8 and December 13, 14 and 15. For exact dates and details, including a printable timetable and maps to the locations, visit the ABTO website at azbigtrains.org. The site includes a number of pictures showing details of the layouts that will be open during the open house tour.

While admission is free, voluntary donations will be accepted at each layout. The donations are used to support ABTO activity throughout the Valley, particularly the maintenance of the train layouts at the Phoenix Children's Hospital and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

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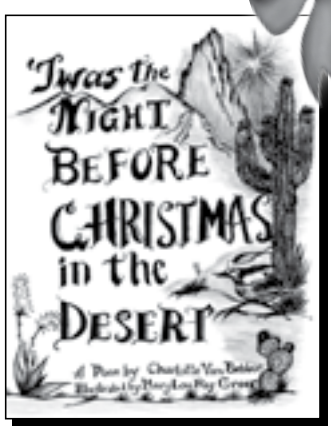

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Photo courtesy of Travis Tuttle

Carol Makita, with KSL-TV News in Salt Lake City, interviews Travis Tuttle (center) and Andrew Propst (r), whose kidnapping while serving a mission in Russia has now been made into a major motion picture--The Saratov Approach.

Gilbert Missionary Relives **Kidnapping Experience,** Watching it on the Big Screen

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Fifteen years ago, while serving a mission in Russia, Travis Tuttle, of Gilbert, Ariz., and his companion, Andrew Propst, of Lebanon, Ore., both 20 at the time, were kidnapped, beaten, threatened at gunpoint and held for four days while their captors hoped to receive the ransom money they demanded.

Now, that harrowing experience has been made into a motion picture. An independent film written and directed by Garrett Batty, "The Saratov Approach," is "90 to 95 percent accurate. Very close to what actually happened," Travis says.

The son of Donna and Roy Tuttle of Gilbert, Travis is now 35 and a member of the Stone Creek Ward, Queen Creek Stake. He and his wife Brook have four children.

Watching "The Saratov Approach," he says, evoked a variety of emotions.

"It was weird to see a story that happened so long ago come to life on the big screen, and it was cool how it was portrayed."

Travis admits that when Garrett Batty approached them about making the movie they turned him down.

"Andy and I didn't buy off on the idea at first. It was such a personal story for us, we weren't sure about making it so public," he says. "We told him no several times, but Garrett had a lot of passion for this project—and persistence."

They were concerned about the quality of the movie and about how they—and the Church—would be portrayed.

Yet, Travis says, "It's turned out to

Continued on pg. 11

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Missionary Kidnapping Movie
Continued from pg. 10

be a great experience."

Among the blessings has been the renewed friendship between the two former companions. After their missions, they went separate ways and didn't have contact for about 12 years.

Today, "It's been great to reconnect with Andy and we've talked a lot about a lot of things," Travis says.

Those conversations and his own reflection have led to several conclusions. He says he has learned a great deal about forgiveness, about relationships and about trusting in the Lord.

During the ordeal, "we had no idea what was going on outside and were concerned about what was happening to other missionaries, what was going on in the city and with our families," Travis says.

They knew their decisions could cost them their lives and could affect the greater picture of missionary work as a whole.

"We were so fortunate that we were together, that someone was there to lean on the entire time. We never gave up on each other. When I was down, Andy picked me up; when he was down, I did that for him," Travis says. "It's taught me that we should never give up on anybody, a child, spouse, family member, coworker—never give up on anyone."

While held captive, they didn't feel bitter or forsaken. Instead, they were confident knowing, "We were worthy, hard-working missionaries, who wanted to teach the gospel. We also had our free agency, and, even with some promptings not to, and when we didn't have a Book of Mormon left to give them, we chose to go to that particular door that day."

The two do wonder "why me" at times, but not in the way most would think.

"We recognize there are a lot of people better than we are, but we also know not everyone could have endured what we did," Travis says. "We feel it was something that was in the making for us for a long time—in how we were raised and different experiences we had on our missions."

"We feel fortunate and blessed," says Travis.

He believes the thing that may have helped the most to overcome the trauma is the fact that they stayed in the mission field.

"After we were released, we stayed out there, kept working. We didn't have a chance to dwell on it. We jumped back into missionary work," Travis said.

"The Saratov Approach" will be available on DVD sometime next year.

"It's taught me that we should never give up on anybody, a child, spouse, family member, coworker—never give up on anyone."

Gilbert Custom Home is Site of 56th Annual Christmas House

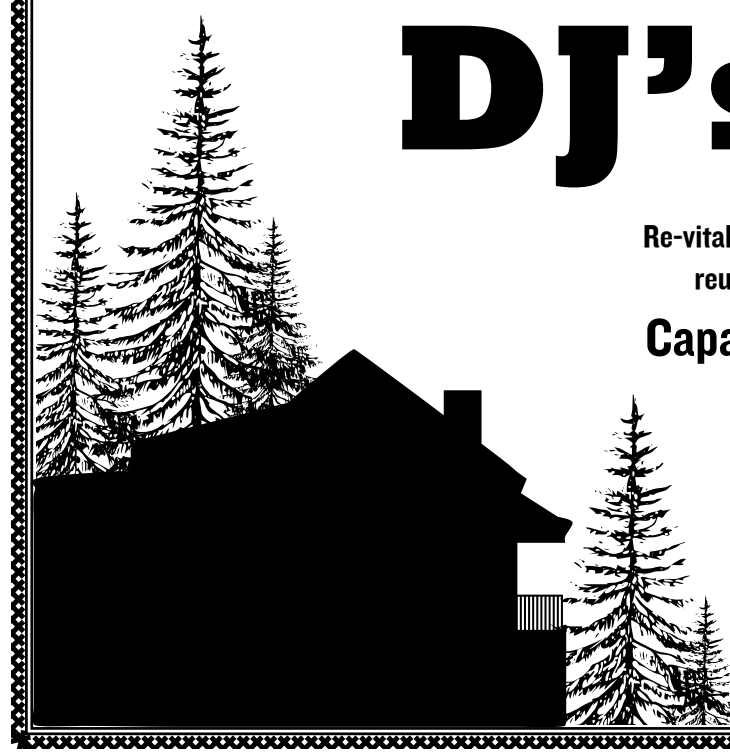
At the annual Christmas Idea House, a newly built, 9.000-square-foot custom home in South Gilbert will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland. There, visitors will discover holiday décor, thousands of unique gifts and gourmet goodies, all for sale and ranging in price from $2 to several hundred dollars each.

The Christmas Idea House, which lures thousands each year, is the primary fundraiser for Desert Club, an all-volunteer women's organization, which has raised more than $2.4 million to date. Proceeds benefit local charities and provide need-based scholarships to deserving young students.

The Idea House kicks off Thursday, Dec. 5 at 5:30 p.m. with a "Preview Gala," including a first-look home tour, live music, silent auction and gourmet food by Robert's Catering (reservations required; tickets are $70). Friday, Dec. 6, is the "Holiday Brunch" (9 a.m. or 12 p.m.), followed by the home tour and shopping (tickets are $40). For information and to purchase tickets, visit www.christmasideahouse.org.

The home is open for public tours and shopping Friday, Dec. 6 from 4 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets ($12) can be purchased at the door. Guests may receive a $2

Parking is located at 2697 East Germann Road in Gilbert. From the 202 freeway, exit Greenfield Rd. and head south; turn east on Germann Rd., the entrance to Whitewing at Germann Estates will be on the right. For information on Desert Club or the Christmas Idea House, visit www.christmas-ideahouse.org.



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Two Choice Families Choose to ADOPT

Picture by Holly Larsen

The Richardsons, (l to r) Kennedy, Natalie, Kellen, Jerry and Madison, say they enjoy their association and cherish the promise of living as a family for all eternity.

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

The Richardson family, of the Chandler Stake, says their favorite is "From God's Arms to My Arms to Yours," a song about adoption by Michael McLean.

"Our ultimate dream was to have children, but with my illness we weren't able to," said Brother Jerry Richardson. "Going through LDS Social Services was comforting. You knew that the birthmothers were looking for eternal families for their babies just like us."

Over the past 19 years, Jerry and his wife, Natalie, adopted three children—two daughters and one son.

Jerry says, "Our first child, Madison, was three days old when she was placed in our arms directly from the hospital."

"We loved her before we ever saw her," Natalie adds, "I thought she was the prettiest baby I had ever seen. It was a miracle and such a spiritual time."

The Richardson's next daughter, Kennedy, was eight months old when she joined their family.

"We met her birthmother and grandmother and also received a letter from her babysitter who loved her very much. Kennedy was the sweetest, happiest little thing, and we bonded very quickly," says Natalie.

Kellen, the Richardson's son, was two when the couple adopted him.

"He was meant to be with our family and fit perfectly," Jerry says.

They Richardsons have felt that same confirmation with each of their children. They firmly believe, "Our children were supposed to be with us and be our family."

The couple appreciates the birthmothers of the children.

"The birthmother puts her baby's needs before her own. It takes a very unselfish person to be able to plan for their child's future in such a loving way," says Natalie.

Jerry says they also are grateful for the temple ordinances.

"Having your children sealed to you is such a fabulous celebration. … It's incredible."

Another Arizona family, the Wrights, have adopted four children through LDS Social Services.

Geoff Wright, of the Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake, says, "We knew early in our marriage that we were not going to be able to conceive children. While at the temple, we received a special witness that our children would come only through adoption."

"Ultimately, it all comes down to being chosen by a birthmother through inspiration. It's all about love," says Natalie Wright.

Nine months later the Wright's received their son, Jacob. "We knew his spirit had chosen us. We felt overjoyed and filled with love and peace that the will of the Lord had come to pass in our lives," says Natalie.

"Anna was a month old when we received her, and she felt so peaceful when we held her for the first time. … Jacob was so excited to meet his sister, and called her by name—there was a look of recognition on his face," says Natalie.

The Wrights submitted papers again when Jacob was four and Anna, three. Jacob prayed for twins. Natalie explained to him that they needed to pray for just one baby, not twins.

Continued on pg. 13

The soul would have no rainbows, if the eyes possessed no tears.

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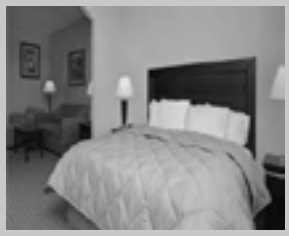

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Alice Boyle Donates
110 ALBUMS
of Photographic History to the Church

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

Photo by Jared Rogers

North American Southwest Area Church History Advisor, Chris Feriante and his wife, Adele, (l to r) present Alice Boyle with a statue to thank her for the donation of 110 albums of photographs and historical material to the Church Historical Department. Accepting the donation is Michael Landon of the Historical Department.

Lehi resident, Alice Boyle, picked up the hobby of photography more than 50 years ago. That hobby soon grew into a passion, as she photo-documented nearly every church function held in the Mesa Arizona Lehi Stake, including funerals and the Stake Pioneer Trek, and she took portraits of stake members, Now, her collection of 110 albums is in the hands of the Church History Department.

Alice grew up in Virden, New Mexico. She moved to Arizona as a young adult, where she met her husband, Pat. Lehi has been their home since 1960. The Boyles are members of the Monument Ward, in the Lehi Stake. They are the parents of six children, four of whom are living.

As Alice's collection of photographs grew, she began to organize them into archival-quality albums. She also collected newspaper articles, newsletters and written histories about people in her ward and stake. These items fill 24 of the albums recently donated to the church.

Sister Boyle has always been active in the church and in her community. She has served in the Relief Society, as Primary President, Cub Scout leader, chorister, welfare leader and as a nursery leader for nine years. Not surprisingly, she also served as ward and stake historian.

Ancestors of both Pat and Alice were among the first residents of Lehi. Brother Boyle's mother's family, the Shills, came to Lehi before it was officially founded in 1877 when Brigham Young sent Mormon pioneers to settle there.

Alice had wondered what would become of her treasured photographs in the future and decided it was time to let the church take charge of them. The Church Historical Department has contacted various stakes from time to time in search of collections such as Alice's. They were aware of her efforts and welcomed her offer to donate her photographs.

On Sunday, September 29, 2013, during a combined 5th Sunday Relief Society, Priesthood, Young Men and Young Women's meeting, Sister Boyle

Continued on pg. 15

Families Choose Adoption
Continued from pg. 12

"Anna, immediately piped up and said 'No, mom we are having two babies come to our family.' … For three years they diligently prayed for our twins to come," says Natalie.

Within a few days of each other, the Wrights received calls from not one, but two birthmothers.

"We were overjoyed when we heard the news of two sweet baby girls—Ivy and Elly—would join our family."

The Wrights say they have loved the process of adoption, and, apparently their children feel that.

Natalie said, recently, when Ivy was having her three-year-old well-checkup with a new doctor, "Ivy told the doctor, 'My mommy couldn't grow a baby in her tummy so I grew in her heart.'"

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Photo by Charlie Fish

Helping to coordinate and present the recent Church Technology Seminar, were (l to r) representatives from the Church›s Information and Communications Services, Paul Scherbel, Meetinghouse Technology Coordinator, and Anna Butler, Field Management, Mike Fish, Technology Specialist for the Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake and Gilbert Greenfield Stake president, David Layton.

Phoenix LDSTech Chapter Hosts

Technology Training

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

On Saturday, September 21, the largest Church Technology Seminar ever held in Arizona was hosted at the Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake Center.

Stake Technology Specialist, Mike Fish, organized the seminar to teach members how to use Church applications on their computers and phones, including how to schedule ward and stake buildings.

Approximately100 members attended from various stakes around the valley.

Training in the use of the LDS.org calendar, along with familyseasrch.org was included in the instructional seminar.

Elder Dan Eliason, LDSTech service missionary, from Utah, says, "The Church recognized that technology is advancing faster than the regular budget can cope and also that there is a wealth of technical talent within our ranks of the membership."

"They created LDSTech as a means to augment the Church employee labor force and also provide opportunities for members to serve in a specialized capacity," he said. "Both Church service missionaries and 'non-called' volunteers provide significant contributions to some areas, such as beta testing and member training on the new apps.

Elder Eliason added, "LDSTech is also beginning to have a role supporting the Meeting House Technology

Continued on pg. 15

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LDS Tech Hosts Training
Continued from pg. 14

Coordination Team that has primary responsibility for supporting Stake Technology Specialists."

He said the idea of forming chapters, or local groups of interested volunteers, is a concept recognized by the Information and Communications Services (ICS) department, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop's office.

ICS representatives, Paul Scherbel, Meetinghouse Technology Coordinator, and Anna Butler, Field Management, flew from Utah to Arizona to assist with the seminar.

The seminar was organized by Mike Fish, Technology Specialist for the Gilbert Arizona Greenfield Stake. Brother Fish also serves as president of the Phoenix chapter.

"Everyone now schedules the building themselves through LDS.org calendaring. I receive many phone calls and recognize there is a great need for training. My passion is technology. I like to share it. It thrills me to see others able to do some cool stuff on their own," Mike says.

Included in that "cool" stuff taught at the seminar was:

How to use LDS.org Church website tools to assist leaders with their callings and access to Church tools (MLS).

How to download, install and use two official LDS mobile aps (LDS Tools and Gospel Library).

How to implement the new Church digital missionary pilot program using social media, such as Facebook and others.

How to use new features of the Family Tree on familysearch.org.

Use of the buildings technical resources (TV projectors, connecting personal devices, etc.)

Hands-on demonstrations of various equipment used to broadcast stake conferences.

According to the seminar organizers, learning how to use Church applications is for everyone. Virginia Fish, 86, and great grandmother of 37, agrees. She says, "I show others in Relief Society how to access the lesson on their phones. I don't want to let the kids get ahead of me."

More technology training seminars are projected for the near future. For more information, contact your Stake Technology Specialist or Mike Fish at 602-824-8564.

Auditions Announced for Saturday's Warrior 40th Anniversary Show

All the magic and music of the legendary show—Saturday's Warrior—will be brought to life again in celebration of the 40th Anniversary. Norlan Jacobs, of Dreamweaver Productions, and director of the original Utah production, is bringing the anniversary show to Arizona in the summer of 2014. Jacobs says it will emulate the original production, yet it will be bigger, more beautiful and better than ever. The grand opening will be June 26, 2014, at Higley Center for the Performing Arts for a limited engagement.

Auditions for this professional, anniversary production of Saturday's Warrior will be March 8, 2014, for children's roles (ages 7 to 16) and March 11 through 13, for adult roles (17+). Those wishing to audition should be prepared to sing a 1- to 1½ minute number and to learn and perform a short, choreographed routine. For further information regarding the auditions and dance workshops, go to www.saturdayswarrioraz.com.

Tickets are on sale now, at www.higleyarts.org, at the Higley Center for the Arts box office or by calling 480-279-7194.

Alice Boyle Donates Albums
Continued from pg. 13

presented her 110 albums of photographic and written history pertaining to the Lehi Stake to Michael Landon of the Church History Department, who had come to Lehi to receive the collection. He was joined by Brother and Sister Feriante of Houston, Texas. Brother Chris Feriante, the North American Southwest Area Church History Advisor, facilitated the acquisition.

In appreciation for sharing her collection with the church, Sister Boyle was presented with a Hansen Classics porcelain sculpture titled, "Family Ties," which depicts a family reading their history together.

The church is grateful to have acquired this collection.

"Alice Boyle has done a remarkable service in donating this history of Lehi. Not only is it important for the present generation, but it will undoubtedly bless future generations as well," said Brother Landon.

Alice's collection will be archived and digitized, and she will receive a digital and a hard copy.

She claims to be slowing down now, after half a century of photographing people and events near and dear to her heart. However, the last time Alice was spotted around Lehi, she had her trusty camera with her.

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Tucson couple teaches English and participates in BAPTISM IN CHINA

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Kirk and Karen Mosley, members of the Wildwood Park Ward in the Tucson Arizona West Stake, were looking to satisfy their love for travel and adventure as well as their desire to serve. Wanting some direction, Kirk asked his sons for a priesthood blessing, following which, their son, Logan, said he "felt strongly that whatever Kirk was supposed to do, it was going to mean that he would be learning a lot and need to work hard at it."

After discussing several options, the couple chose to serve in the China's Teacher Program (CTP), a non-profit outreach program of the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at Brigham Young University. The purpose of the program is to provide seasoned U.S. teachers to Chinese universities.

After a rigorous training program from the Kennedy Center, the Mosley's were off to the University of Electronic Science and Technology in Chengdu, China. They jumped into their assignment with both feet, teaching several graduate classes each semester.

Karen admits, "I›m a teacher. I have years of experience. … It›s exciting and fun for me to be teaching at the university level. Not so for Kirk—he›s a dentist. … He is not comfortable in front of large groups and doesn›t like the spotlight. That first day of classes was quite intimidating."

However, because of Kirk's background in dentistry, he was able to help create a hygiene branch within the existing dental office and host what they called Smile Clinics. He trained students to scale tartar and plaque, polish teeth and floss—something not traditionally done in China.

The Branch they attended in Chengdu had approximately 50 members.

Karen makes it clear that they were in China to teach English. "Each week before our meeting, the Branch President reads the restrictions under which we are allowed to meet as foreigners in China. We were strongly counseled to let our friends and family know that we were NOT on a formal mission in China, and that when missionaries DO go to China, it will be through the front door."

Photo Courtesy of Kirk and Karen Mosley

At the baptism in the Chengdu Branch, (clockwise, l to r), Lyncy, Kirk and Karen Mosley, Lily and the new converts› sons, who look forward to someday being baptized.

That being said, one of the highlights was teaching the gospel to Lyncy and Lily. Alhough Lyncy was raised in Chengdu, she was considered a "foreigner" so it was legal to invite her to church; and, as a foreigner, Lyncy could invite her friend, Lily. They both expressed a sincere interest in Christianity.

Karen explains, "They had been to other Chinese Christian churches, but they said that they wanted to find the right church."

After a few months, both women gained testimonies of the Restored Gospel and desired baptism.

Kirk memorized the baptismal prayer in Mandarin and performed the baptism shortly before he and Karen returned to America.

Karen adds, "I was asked to speak at the baptismal service, and I testified that I don›t think I came to China to teach English—I think the Lord sent me there to meet Lyncy and Lily and share with them the glorious plan of salvation."

To read more about the Mosley's experiences teaching English in China, go to www.nonnypoppyadventures.blogspot.com.

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GROUNDBREAKING

Marks Addition of LDS Institute Building on ASU's Polytechnic Campus

Photo by John Power Biltmore Photo

On the day of the groundbreaking ceremony, an artist rendering showed the new building that will house the LDS Institute program on the ASU Polytechnic campus in East Mesa.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Arizona State University president Michael M. Crow were joined by other Church and community leaders on Sept. 9 in a symbolic gold-shovel groundbreaking for a new 24,000-square-foot LDS Institute building on ASU's Polytechnic campus in the East Valley.

Heavy rain forced the groundbreaking ceremony inside to the adjacent Student Union building, where approximately 200 people gathered to witness the presentations and ceremonial groundbreaking.

Dr. Crow noted that, currently, the Polytechnic campus represented a combination of "ideals and ideas focused on education in a technical sense of mind and body."

According to the ASU website, the Polytechnic campus offers technical and professional programs—including aviation, business, education, engineering, math, science and technology, complemented by arts, humanities and social sciences curricula—in a hands-on learning environment, characterized by intimate class sizes, an integrated curriculum and accessible faculty.

However, "we don't focus on the spiritual education or spiritual development of the person," Dr. Crow said, adding that by working with faith-based organizations, such as the LDS Church on the Institute project, "we can provide in one environment the complete and total educational experience an individual needs to put them on the right course."

He counted the new Institute as a mark of progress for ASU Polytechnic, as the "science, engineering and many natural sciences" offered on the campus will be combined "with everything this Institute represents in terms of spiritual development."

Elder Andersen thanked ASU and Dr. Crow and encouraged LDS educators, community members and elected officials in attendance to let others know about the new addition to what is offered at ASU.

"Share this with our members and our youth. Let them know that ASU is our friend," Elder Andersen said.

Referring to ASU's Tempe campus, Elder Andersen added, "Dr. Crow took leadership to step forward and let us build a large Institute there."

The new building on the Polytechnic campus is another example that, "ASU is very inclusive of us," Elder Andersen said. He said for LDS students in Arizona, when compared to Utah schools or other Church schools, "There is every bit as much advantage and maybe more to stay and go to ASU."

The new Institute building will be constructed on the northwest corner of Innovation Way North and South Sterling Avenue, "right at the crossroads of campus," Elder Andersen said. The 25,000 square-foot building will include a chapel, a large cultural hall, 14 classrooms and offices. The Institute is within the boundaries of the Gilbert Young Single Adult Stake and will serve students from the Polytechnic campus, Chandler-Gilbert Community College and ASU Preparatory High School, located on the Polytechnic campus.

Dave J. Gornik, of Emc2 Group Architects Planners, PC, was lead architect on the project. Emc2 Group architects Scott Lutes and Richard Clutter, who also worked on the proj-

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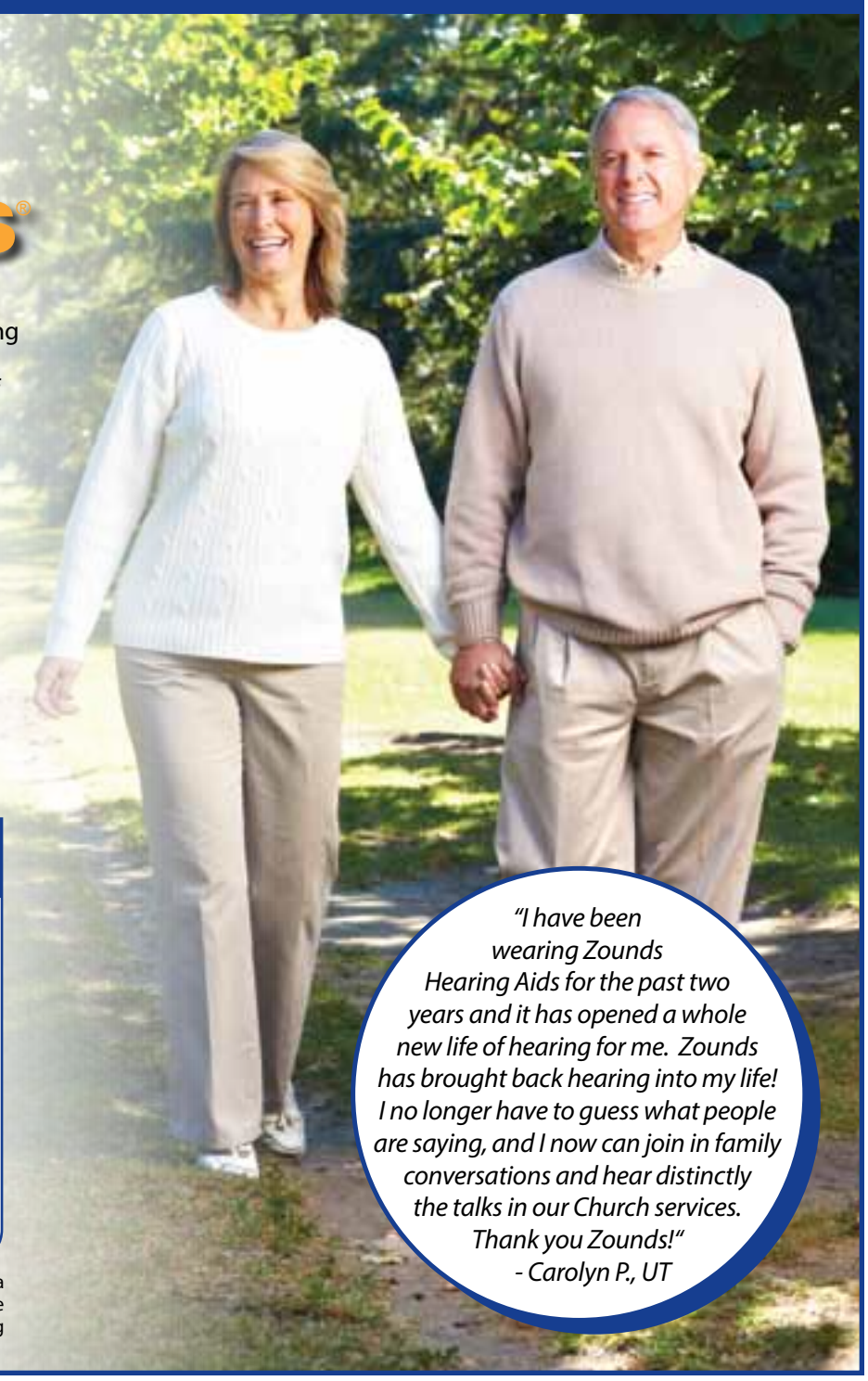

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Latter-day Saints Across the ValleyVolunteer On

Make a Difference DAY

Photo by Garry Wilmore

Members of the Chandler West Stake participate in cleanup efforts at the Chandler Airport as part of the Chandler For Our City Day.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In October, hundreds of Latter-day Saints from stakes across the Valley, joined with members of the community, hoping to make a difference.

The annual Make a Difference Day is designated as a day of service and of coming together to cleanup and beautify neighborhoods, lend a helping hand and provide needed manpower for community projects and events.

While some wards and stakes initiated projects of their own, other LDS groups participated in projects organized by their city or by other organizations.

In Chandler, Make a Difference Day has been adopted as part of For Our City Day. According to Judy Ramos, with City of Chandler Neighborhood Resources, each year, city directors submit ideas for projects. This year, for the third annual For Our City Day, the project selected was adjacent to the Chandler City Airport, where volunteers assisted with a landscape beautification project and cleanup, designed to also provide "visual enhancement for approximately one-quarter mile stretch of land along the Paseo Trail," Judy says. Members of the Chandler stakes worked alongside neighbors and other community members.

"It was a nice event, a very, very nice event," Judy says. "The volunteers made a significant difference in the area."

According to City of Mesa volunteer manager, Michelle Alvis, Mesa had approximately 1,500 volunteers, who turned out to complete projects throughout the city—everything from park and alley cleanup to wall painting projects, from graffiti reporting to distribution of fire safety bags, "sweeping" and removal of old signs to tire collection.

The YSA West Stake completed nine of those projects, including cleanup at a park and re-painting curb numbers. Other stakes participating in projects in Mesa, each of them completing multiple projects, were the Maricopa North Stake, the Kimball Stake and the Mesa Citrus Heights Stake.

Roger Decker, then a member of the high council, now Young Men president in the Citrus Heights Stake, organized the Make a Difference Day involvement. He says it was gratifying to see approximately 175 stake members participate. "Many came as families, a lot with younger kids." Participants were divided into groups, and each group was assigned a leader. Most of the leaders, says Brother Decker, "were Young Men. They showed excellent leadership and made sure what we wanted to do got done."

In the Alta Mesa Stake, Phil Montalvo, was participating in Make a Difference Day for the third time, the second as the high council representative over community service. Brother Montalvo says two Eagle Scout candidates completed their projects as part

Continued on pg. 21

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Courtesy Michelle Alvis, City of Mesa

Members of Latter-day Saint stakes and other others in the community joined together to complete more than 60 projects that were overseen by the City of Mesa for Make a Difference Day in October.

Making a Difference Day
Continued from pg. 20

of the stake's overall efforts on Make a Difference Day. The project for Mason Reis, 17, of the Mountain Vista Ward, was to clean an easement and canal on the site of a future park that will be within their ward boundaries. "It was like a miniature jungle," he says, but after the cleanup, "I think it turned out really well," Mason says. "It was different playing the role of the leader. It was nice, refreshing."

The second Eagle Scout candidate was Ryan Montalvo, 14. For his project, 30 ward members and 20 neighbors helped paint an 1,800-foot wall on 80th Street in Mesa. "It looked a lot nicer," Ryan says. "The residents of the neighborhood thanked me. They were really appreciative."

In yet another Make a Difference Day project, the Mesa Arizona YSA East Stake helped with the Down Syndrome Walk at Tempe Diablo Stadium. According to Heather Sandstrom, whose husband, Paul, is the stake president, approximately 500 single adults helped from about 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. to pass out balloons, water and refreshments, as well as providing encouragement to the hundreds participating in the walk.

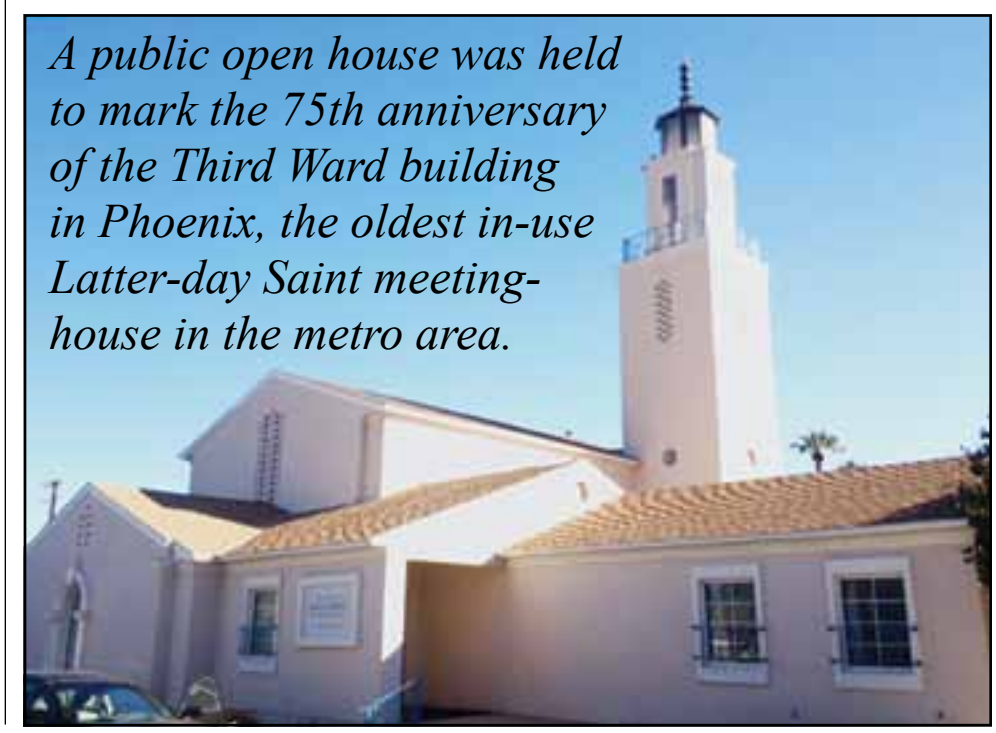
Community Invited to Open House for Historic 75-year-old LDS Chapel

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In September 2013, a public open house and community tour marked the75th anniversary of the construction and dedication of one of the oldest LDS church buildings in central Phoenix.

The historic 75-year-old meetinghouse, located near the heart of downtown Phoenix, at 47 E. Ashland Avenue, is listed on the National Reg-

Continued on pg. 22



A public open house was held to mark the 75th anniversary of the Third Ward building in Phoenix, the oldest in-use Latter-day Saint meetinghouse in the metro area.

Photo by C. W. Ross

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new LDS Institute building on the ASU Polytechnic campus in East Mesa are (l to r) Elder Jim L. Wright of the Seventy, Sister Kathy Andersen, wife of Neil L. Andersen, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Dr. Michael Crow, president of Arizona State University.

LDS Institute Groundbreaking
Continued from pg. 17

ect, said the exterior has been designed of two-tone brick and will have a flat roof, so it will blend in with the other buildings on the campus.

Permits are approved and, the first phase of construction, demolition of some existing structures, is scheduled to begin by year-end. Completion is expected in mid-2015.

Also turning shovels at the groundbreaking were mayors John Lewis of the Town of Gilbert and Gail Barney of Queen Creek and vice mayor, Alex Finter, of Mesa. Also participating were Maricopa County Supervisors Stephen D. Chucri and Denny Barney, Representatives Justin Pierce and Douglas Coleman and Senator Bob Worsley and other East Valley elected officials. Emcee for the event was Roc Arnett, East Valley Church and community leader and founding CEO of East Valley Partnership.

Old LDS Chapel
Continued from pg. 21

istry for Historical Buildings.

Countless members of the church, now living throughout the valley, have worshiped in this chapel over the last 75 years. The building continues as the oldest LDS church building in use in Metro Phoenix, now serving the 1,000 members of the Central Ward, formerly called the Third Ward, and the Monterey Branch, a unit that offers services conducted in Spanish.

The Third Ward was created in February 1936, by President Heber J. Grant. They first met in the old Osborn School on North Central Avenue and, later, moved to the Second Ward Chapel.

When the first counselor in the bishopric, Blaine H. Alexander, and ward member, Erwin Atkerson, were tasked with finding a suitable site for a new building, it was only "after much difficulty" that they secured the five-acre plot on 2nd Street and Ashland. Even then, as historical records state, the plot "was covered with mesquite, greasewood and Palo Verde trees. Hard work was needed to change the rubbish tract into a spot of beauty and a showplace of the city."

In February 1938, Elder George F. Richards presided over a meeting to create the Phoenix Stake. The 121st stake in the Church, James R. Price was called as Stake President, with Delbert L. Stapley and C. Warren Peterson as counselors.

According to HistoricPhoenix.com, "The LDS Third Ward Chapel, built in 1938-1939, became the centerpiece of the 11-lot (Monterey) subdivision. The building, which was designed by Alexander & Burton, is exemplary of the Period Revival Architecture of the late 1930s, combining elements of American Colonial architecture with Italian Renaissance to provide eclectic imagery."

One of the many beautiful architectural features of the chapel is its steeple. C. W. Ross, Central Ward bishop, says, "At night, when the steeple is lighted, I'm often reminded of how our Savior, Jesus Christ, is the light of the world."

The ward wanted to share that same message as part of the anniversary open house. "We were excited to open the doors of this beautiful chapel to our friends and neighbors in the community," says Bishop Ross.

"Many of the visitors were members from around the Valley who, at some time, attended services at our building," he adds. "One sister in our ward, whose husband is not LDS, was able to bring him and show him the building and all the displays prepared by the various auxiliaries."

"We also had several ward members invite neighbors," he says.

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Arizona Artist Paints *Murals* for Gilbert Temple

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Seated in front of his canvas, artist Howard Lyon, of Gilbert, spent 10, sometimes 12 or more hours a day, six days a week, for seven months.

His finished work, two large murals, will hang in the baptistry of the Gilbert Arizona Temple.

"They were certainly the largest paintings I've worked on," Howard says.

Unique in size alone, the paintings were new territory in scope as well. He admits that knowing they would be seen by thousands and, more importantly, recognizing they would adorn the House of the Lord, could have combined to make the project overwhelming.

"A person could easily be distracted by feeling inadequate or by thinking their work was not up to the standards of the temple or the quality expected," he says.

Instead of being derailed by that, Howard said it moved him to "get into the work. At the end, I wanted to have the feeling of knowing I'd put in the time and done everything in my ability to make sure it was successful."

Howard says the 4' x 15' murals "depict scenes from Christ's life." He believes the selection committee liked the concept he submitted as well as his overall style.

Photo by Howard Lyon

Howard Lyon, of Gilbert, painted two large murals that will hang in the baptistry of the Gilbert Arizona Temple.

"I think they like my use of the figure," Howard says. "I love painting people. It's the most challenging, but the most rewarding, to paint people and to tell a story through painting."

Howard worked out of his home studio in Gilbert, where he and his wife, Shari, are raising their three children.

"I definitely approached it with prayer and contemplation, but, much of the time, working on the murals was work." As with any job, he managed the mechanics, setting goals of what he wanted to accomplish each day to stay on schedule. At the same time, he did things like listening to uplifting music—particularly "The Lamb of God," by Rob Gardner, which Howard says, "made me feel close to the spirit, while I worked."

While having to maintain confidentiality as far as letting others see the painting, "It's just been a great experience to have that in our home," he says. "It has made the temple more personal, and we feel a part of the process. The kids are tied to that temple in a way they wouldn't otherwise be."

Howard says he knew early on that he wanted to pursue art as a career. His parents, Gary and Rita Lyon, of Mesa, were supportive then and continue to be today.

For the murals, Howard's father, an engineer, "used his brilliant mind and came up with a mechanized easel, a cable-pulley system," making it possible

Continued on pg. 27

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Arizona Artist Paints Temple Murals
Continued from pg. 26

for Howard to move the large canvases into more favorable painting positions. "He also visited me probably 30 times while I was working on the murals, to lift me up and tell me how excited he was about this project."

A graduate of Brigham Young University's Illustration and Design program, Howard worked for 13 years as art director at a video game company.

"It was like getting paid to improve my work. I learned better use of color and composition and my drawing skills improved," he said.

He ultimately transitioned into working fulltime as a freelance science fiction and fantasy illustrator.

Yet, he says, "I kept thinking about my work and felt I needed to do something that would be an inspiration to others in some way."

Then, his brother and sister-in-law, Grant and Jill Lyon, approached him to do a religious piece for them.

"It gave me the opportunity to jump in and do religious art. It was really life-changing. It opened the door, and almost felt like a career switch," he says.

Howard appreciates the opportunity he has had to share his testimony through his art.

"I love the hope of Christ's gospel and the knowledge that we can be made perfect through Christ," he says.

With their award-winning show,

THE DUTTONS

begin their sixth season in Arizona

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For the sixth year running, the Dutton family, will leave their Branson, Missouri, "summer" home and return to Gilbert, Ariz., for the winter.

With them, they will bring busloads of costumes, props and musical instruments—and three generations oozing talent and entertainment quality.

Billed as simply "The Duttons," the family opened a theater in East Mesa six years ago to bring their popular Branson Christmas shows and their classic winter shows to the Valley.

This year, the familiar pattern had to be adjusted slightly to accommodate their current circumstances.

Josiah—three-year-old son of singer and violinist, Amy, and youngest member of the Dutton family—is being treated for leukemia at St. Jude's Pediatric Cancer Center in Springfield, Missouri. Ironically, the eldest member, family patriarch and performer, Dean Dutton, was recently diagnosed with a malignant tumor and will undergo

Continued on pg. 29

The award-winning, three-generation performing group known as The Duttons--with (l to r) Timothy, Amy, Benjamin, Abby and Jonathon Dutton--will again bring their show to Arizona for the winter during the Branson off-season.

Photo Courtesy of the Duttons.

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Christmas Lights Display to Shine on the Mesa Temple Grounds

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In the six weeks before Thanksgiving, hundreds of volunteers go to work on the grounds of the Mesa Arizona Temple.

Each volunteer performs a role in stringing the hundreds of thousands of lights to create the magnificent Christmas display on the temple grounds. In so doing, each contributes to the overall intent of the display, which is to hold up a light to the world and to share the true message of the birth of Christ.

According to event spokesman, Stephen Harms, "The display represents our belief in Christ as the Redeemer and our desire to proclaim that to the world. You could say the lights symbolize the light that Christ is in our lives as our Savior and Redeemer."

This year, visitors to the temple grounds will find, "A lot will be new and different," says Beckie Jackson, director.

Photo courtesy Beckie Jackson

This year, the Christmas Lights Display on the Temple Grounds will feature a new statue as well as new color schemes in the center area, with more golds and whites, designed to create a feeling of peace.

"A spectacular new statue of Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus, a donkey and sheep, will be placed in the negative fountain north of the temple," she explains.

The color scheme for the lights "will include more golds and more whites in the center area, where, Beckie says, "We wanted to create a feeling of 'sacred elegance' where people would feel the peace and love of the Savior when on the grounds."

There will be new "flower clusters" among the lights, and several familiar focal items will be in different places than in past years.

"We changed the direction of the large camels, so they will be coming from the east," she says, and "They will have new lighted blankets," as the result of a Mesa Scout's Eagle project, which was overseen by assistant director Stacey Farr.

"The large nativity display will be moved to the west side," and, there, visitors will hear a new recording, with President Thomas S. Monson and the other members of the First Presidency sharing a Christmas message.

This spectacular display is free of charge and is open every evening from 5pm to 10pm, Friday, November 29 through Tuesday, December 31. Lights will be turned on from 5pm to 10pm.

There are also free concerts each

Continued on pg. 5

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Celebrating 20 Years
Continued from pg. 4

evening from December 1 through 25 on the stage north of the Visitors' Center. Early seating is encouraged, as the concerts begin each evening promptly at 7 p.m. They last approximately 30 minutes.

Inside the Visitors' Center, an international nativity exhibit will include 100 crèches, from approximately 70 countries. New this year will be a collection of paper nativities from all over the world, including from Nepal.

"We have new cases for the miniature nativities, so we will have more of those this year as well," says Susan Fuller, who has overseen the nativity display for the past six years. "It's a great way for me to share my testimony of the Savior," she says.

The Visitors' Center permanently features a 13-foot marble replica of the original Christus sculpture, audiovisual presentations, as well as a 10-minute film depicting the birth of Christ. During the weeks of the lights display, the Visitors' Center will be open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. each day.

The Mesa Arizona Temple and Visitors' Center is located at 525 E. Main Street, in Mesa. For more information about the Temple Garden Christmas Lights Display or to view the concert schedule, visit www.mesachristmaslights.com.

2013 Temple Lights Christmas Concerts:

Dec 1	Greenfield Elementary Handbell Ensemble Mary Ellen/Sam Loose—Piano & Vocalist
Dec 2	Westwood High Honor Choir
Dec 3	Andrew & Kristin Briggs—Vocalists
Dec 4	Tempe Institute Choir
Dec 5	Cross in the Desert United Methodist Choir
Dec 6	Deseret Chorale
Dec 7	Phoenix Orpheus Men's Chorus
Dec 8	Gilbert Stake/St. Anne's Catholic Church Choir
Dec 9	Chandler–Gilbert Comm College Singers
Dec 10	Chordaires of Sun Lakes—Women's Choir
Dec 11	East Valley French Horn Quartet
Dec 12	Mesa High A Cappella Choir
Dec 13	Gardner Family Singers
Dec 14	Two Five Nine—Men's Ensemble
Dec 15	Inspire Chorus—Young Adult Ensemble
Dec 16	Wright Family Singers
Dec 17	Mt. View High Chorale
Dec 18	Red Mountain High Singers
Dec 19	American Ldrshp Academy Noteworthy Ensemble
Dec 20	Harmony Sounds—Women's Ensemble
Dec 21	Riggs Sisters—Vocal Quintet
Dec 22	East Valley Chamber Ensemble
Dec 23	Voices One—Larsen Sisters Trio
Dec 24	Andrew McKee—Vocalist
Dec 25	Sister Missionary Choir Melissa Solomon—Vocalist

The Duttons Sixth Season
Continued from pg. 26

treatment as well, his at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale.

To accommodate their situation, The Duttons will perform their Arizona shows only on the weekends—one performance on Thursday evenings, and matinee and evening shows on Fridays and Saturdays, beginning December 13, and running through April 5, 2014. This will allow Amy to be at the hospital with Josiah most of the week, and then commute to Mesa for the weekends, while her husband, Rudy, stays with Josiah.

As taxing as that may sound, "It's very important to The Duttons, especially Amy and Dean, that the show go on, and with as much energy and fun as ever," says Mesa's Nanci Wudel, The Duttons' creative director.

"The entire family receives uplift and strength as they perform together," Nanci explains. "They have always been unified in a unique and wonderful way as they perform."

Nanci says audiences in Arizona have become dear friends to The Duttons—"almost like family members. That's how they view it."

Sheila Dutton, who is the family matriarch and performs with her children and grandchildren, says, "Our family has great faith, and the power of prayer is a reality for us. We appreciate the concern and well wishes that we have received from our Arizona audiences, and we hope for their continued prayers on behalf of Josiah and Dean. We know miracles can be realized through prayer, especially the prayers of our friends."

Top Ten finalists on NBC's "America's Got Talent," The Duttons sing, dance and fiddle their way through a wide array of musical genres, including bluegrass, blues, swing and rock. Their winter shows in Ariz., like their "Best of Branson," award-winning summer performances showcase the family's extensive classical training on violin, cello, and bass and bring audiences to their feet. Plus, guest appearances of "Cousin Julio" bring comedy and fun to this fast-paced, high-energy show.

The Duttons have performed on tour throughout the world, and on television in Italy, France, and China, and, in the United States, appearing twice on PBS and on the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

The Dutton Theater Mesa is located at East Valley High School, 7420 East Main Street (Sun Valley Plaza). To purchase tickets, call 480-840-6874 or visit www.theduttons.com.

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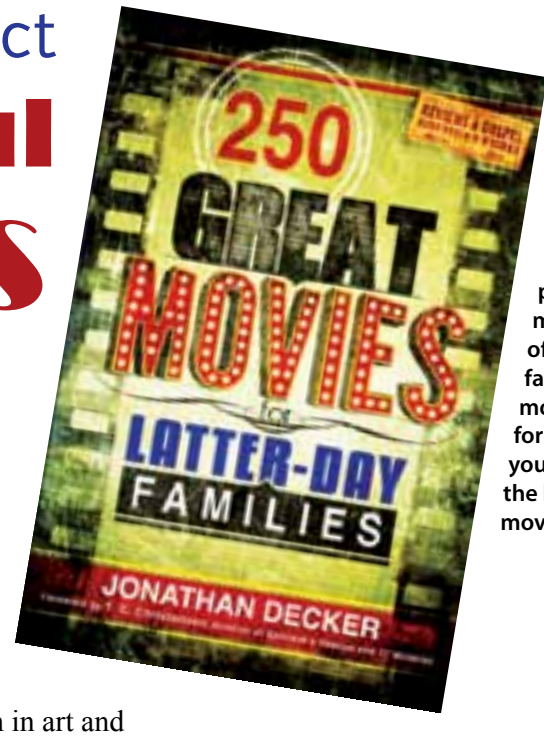

A recently released book by the "Mormon Movie Guy," Jonathan Decker, provides movie reviews of "LDS- and family-friendly" movies and tips for how to talk to your family about the lessons each movie conveys.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Jonathan Decker has combined his passion for movies and his concern for family- friendly viewing into a new book: "250 Great Movies for Latter-day Saint Families"

Photo courtesy Jonathan Decker

Born and raised in Mesa, author Jonathon Decker offers a great way to get past movie night "uh ohs."

Whether considering a helpful gift for Christmas giving, or wanting to expand your own movie-viewing choices, Decker's new book, 250 Great Movies for Latter-day Families offers a myriad of pluses.

Decker says his ties to Arizona run deep. "I went to Mesa's Mountain View High School, was president of the seminary, and I love Filibertos. Now a resident of St. George, he was recently in Arizona to introduce his new book.

A strong point qualifying him to write such a book is the fact that he is a movie-buff with experience. He not only has a strong background in stage and film performance, appearing in numerous independent movies, Decker is also the host of a weekly segment about classic and overlooked films on The KJZZ Movie Show on KJZZ-TV in Utah. He writes a weekly entertainment column and review current films on his website: www.mormonmovieguy.com.

Add to his extensive movie background yet another important fact: As a licensed marriage and family therapist, Decker is qualified to write about the "Latter-day Families" part of his title as well.

In the introduction to his book, Decker explains that in determining what is "good" and what to recommend in terms of movies, he does much more than look at whether a movie has profanity, violence and nudity.

Instead, he writes, "Clearly, there is much in art and entertainment that can inspire righteous choices and draw us nearer to God. " He seeks to find and to recommend, films "that either testify of Him directly or champion the causes and principles that He would champion."

Interestingly, he recommends good entertainment—all in a style that is entertaining in and of itself. His reviews are candid, upbeat and just, well, fun. He grades each move, and provides a quick explanation of what the movie is about. Then, for each of the films, Decker gives a "content overview," that may read something like this: "There is some very mild language" or "It is implied that a man and a woman lived together—all so "you can get an idea, and make your own decisions about what you want to see without any surprises," Decker said.

At the end of each review is what he calls "Messages to Discuss." This is a helpful a tool to help spur dinner table or after-movie conversations, which will allow parents to understand their children better and get them talking about important issues.

250 Great Movies for Latter-day Saint Families is available in LDS bookstores or online at www.MormonMovieGuy.com.

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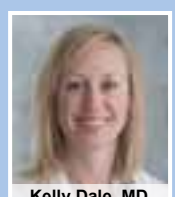
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Mesa Man's Book Chronicles
100 YEARS
of Scouting in the LDS Church

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

On October 29, the Salt Lake City Conference Center hosted "A Century of Honor – Celebrating 100 Years of Service to God and Country," marking the 100th anniversary of the association of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Boy Scouts of America. At that celebration, seated, by invitation, at the front of the audience was Kevin V. Hunt and his wife, Lou, of the Dana Ward, Mesa Arizona South Stake.

The Hunts were invited because of his role in working with a team of 10 Scouting historians to develop the book, *Century of Honor*.

Kevin's involvement actually started 20 years ago, when he began to chronicle the history of Scouting in the Church after visiting the Church Historical Department while vacationing in Salt Lake City.

"Those days in the library produced a stack of about five inches high of Scouting reference material," Kevin said.

He returned to Arizona and, over subsequent months, sorted the documents and extracted key quotes. Ultimately, he produced a book detailing 80 years of Scouting in the Church.

Unable to secure a publisher, Kevin printed and bound copies at his own expense. He sent them to General Young Men presidencies as they were called, including to Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone.

Photo courtesy Kevin Hunt

Mesa Scouter, Kevin Hunt, was part of a 10-writer team that collaborated on *Century of Honor* that chronicles the history of Scouting in the Church. He also revised a book of his own, called *Scouting in the LDS Church: A Centennial History,* that he says complements the other book.

Kevin also sent copies to the Church Historical Department, the LDS/BSA Relations office and others. In the summer of 2012, President David Beck, General Young Men President, and his counselors approached Mark Francis, Director of LDS/BSA Relations, invit-

Continued on pg. 35

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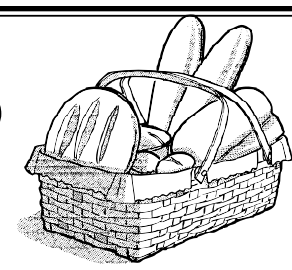

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FOOTBALL LEGEND

and all-American dad, Wilford "Whizzer" White Dies at 84

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When Wilford Parley "Whizzer" White died on August 1, 2013, at 84, headlines in the Arizona Republic called him an "ASU football legend," an "all-time great athlete" and "the first star in Arizona State football history."

Wilford excelled in four sports while attending Mesa High School and was ASU's first All-American in football. He went on to play professionally for the Chicago Bears. Indeed, on the gridiron, the Mesa native was known for his "speed and toughness" and how "he always found ways to gain extra yards." A charter inductee into the ASU Sports Hall of Fame, his number—33—is one of only five ASU has retired.

The article also noted that Whizzer White was "father of former ASU great Danny White"

All of that adds up to reason enough to remember Wilford White.

Yet, says his daughter, Teresa Yetter, of the Hermosa Vista Stake, "He was so much more than his state and national football records or track records. He was an incredible all-round athlete, but he was an All-American dad."

He was born September 26, 1928, to Isham Erdy White and Annie Belle Garner—"who had migrated west from Alabama to be with the Saints and near the temple," Teresa says.

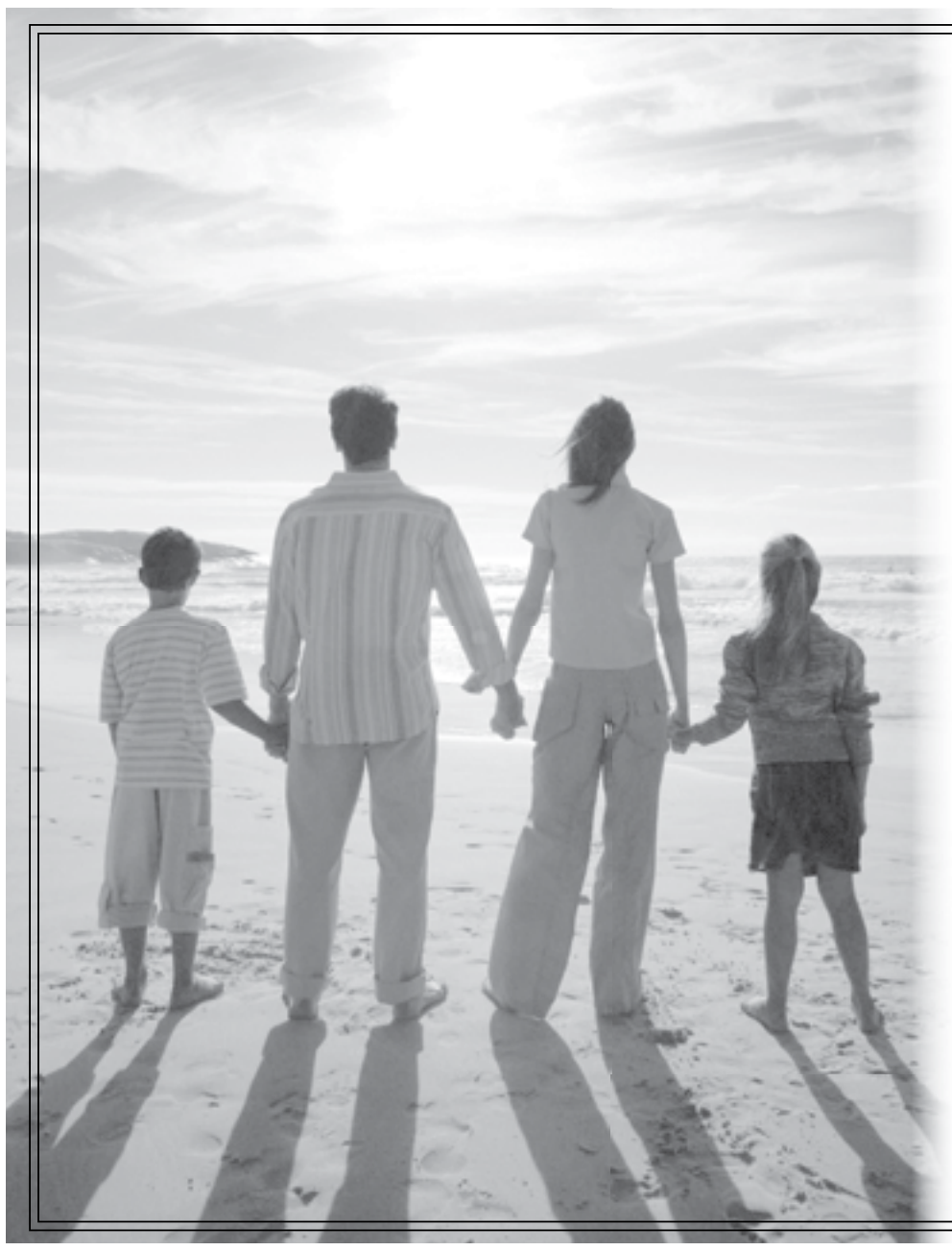
That commitment to the gospel spilled over into Wilford's life as well. He was a faithful member of the Church and served in many callings throughout the years.

"He made sure we were at church every week," Teresa says. She says her brother, Danny, often tells a story that speaks much about their father's priorities. Danny had been out late with a sporting event on a Saturday night and slept in Sunday, missing the

Photo courtesy of Teresa Yetter

Wilford Parley "Whizzer" White, shown with his high school sweetheart and wife of 62 years, Shirley Merrill died on August 1, 2013.

Continued on pg. 35



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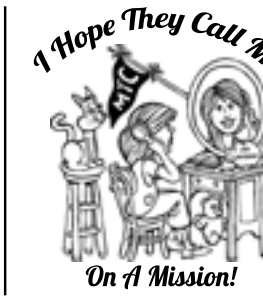

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Football Legend
Continued from pg. 34

early-morning Priesthood Meeting that was the practice before the block plan. "Danny says dad later told him that if he ever missed Priesthood meeting because of sports again, he would have to give up sports."

"More than anything, he loved his family," Teresa says. First on that list is his high school sweetheart and wife of 62 years, Shirley Merrill White; and his children: Danny White (JoLynn), Teresa Yetter (Rich), Tammy Malone (Scott), Cristall Hall (Mark), Chad White (Michele); 26 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

"He enjoyed supporting his grandsons and granddaughters in their endeavors, whether in sports, music or Scouting," Teresa says.

He also shared his own talents and interests freely.

"It wasn't just sports, but so many other things that brought us so much fun and entertainment with our dad," Teresa says.

He loved the outdoors—and hunting, fishing and camping with the family. He enjoyed gardening, especially growing black-eyed peas and okra—foods he grew up on that haled back to his parents' Alabama roots.

"He loved music, and was never found without a harmonica in his pocket," Teresa says. While many think his nickname is tied to football,

Photo courtesy of Teresa Yetter

Considered an "ASU football legend" and an "all-time great athlete," Wilford White's daughter says he was also an "all-American dad."

Teresa said, "He got the nickname 'Whizzer' after playing his harmonica as a freshman at Mesa High at a school assembly. The press called him the 'wizard of the harmonica,' which then was changed to 'Whizzer.'"

"About six years ago, we got dad in the studio and recorded him playing hymns, the Mesa High Fight Song, 'Home on the Range' and other favorites," Teresa says. "I am so glad we preserved those memories."

At the time of his death, Wilford owned the Mesa Merchant Police, founded by his father in 1938.

Book on 100 Years of Scouting
Continued from pg. 33

ing him to create a history for the upcoming LDS/BSA centennial year.

"Mark found a scant folder of information on the subject, but his secretary recalled the book I sent years before," Kevin explained.

Mark googled Kevin Hunt's name and found the right one.

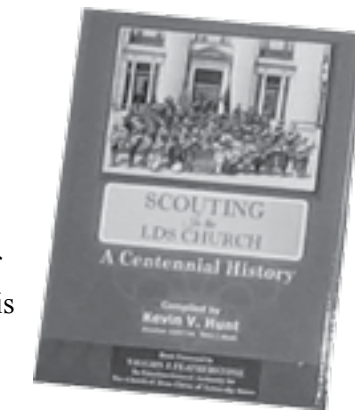
"Mark explained the project and its mission and invited me to serve on the writing committee," Kevin said.

At their first meeting—and without prior coordination—four committee members showed up with copies of Kevin's book. It became the base for their writing.

While working on *Century of Honor,* Kevin also updated his original book. The new title became, *Scouting in the LDS Church: A Centennial History*. Over 80 sources were added to the already extensive bibliography, and the book now includes 96 quotes or references to President Monson and his support of the Scouting program.

In the foreword by Elder Vaughan J. Featherstone, it states: "Here you have the finest history of Scouting in the Church ever written. ... It is a treasury of the greatest Scouters, concepts, philosophies, principles. … This book is a classic and should be on every Bishop and Stake President's shelf."

Kevin, himself a 50-year Scouting veteran—and a Scouter through half of the Church/BSA Centennial history, says there is a need for both books. His book contains the text and quotes, and *Century of Honor* contains the historical photos to go with the text. *Scouting in the LDS Church* is self-published and is available from Kevin via e-mail, Kevin@scoutingtrails.com, or through his website, www.scoutingtrails.com. *Century of Honor* is available on-line through Amazon.com, at Costco, Deseret Book, the LDS/BSA website, and other places.



Scouting in the LDS Church: A Centennial History, is available online at www.scoutingtrails.com

Kevin said the "Century of Honor" production, which, as of Nov. 3, had been viewed by more than 2,033,070, can be accessed at: www.scouts100.lds.org.

He concluded (quoting from page 234), "… Scouting and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints! …a glorious legacy for the Scouts of today and to those of tomorrow. Let us all rejoice in this great Scouting Partnership!"

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Snowflake "Academy in the Wilderness" Stands as a Constant Symbol of Sacrifice

By Linda Turley-Hansen
In collaboration with David K. Flake

Ever wonder how they did it? How the West was settled?

Envision colonizers, under the direction of Presidents Brigham Young and John Taylor, meandering amid Arizona's Rim Country pinion pines, red rocks and dust devils. Some finally found refuge in the Silver Creek Valley and, in 1878, the founders, William Jordan Flake and Erastus Snow renamed that valley—well, yes, they cleverly named it Snowflake, after themselves.

Within months, education became priority. It was understood, book-learning would stabilize the fragile settlement. Thus, among all the sacrifices for shelter and crops, the pioneers took on the costs to set up schooling.

The process was soul shaking, considering the economic and physical struggles. Heartbreak was as constant as the wind, which continually buffets that region, a wilderness so hostile many called it "a forbidding place, totally unfit for civilized society."

Occasionally, general church funds supplemented the remote school, until, decades later, a public system was organized. You'll find heartrending stories of Taylor, a sister community to Snowflake, in a marvelous book by David K. Flake. The book, Academy in the Wilderness, is a delightful collage of memories, records and pictures.

As I read Flake's remarkable account, my sleeping DNA was awakened to the sacrifices of my forefathers and mothers who played a major role in giving life to Snowflake. In 1898, my grandfather, Joseph Peterson, was called by Karl G. Maeser, then the Church Commissioner of Education, to leave his Utah home for Snowflake. "Professor Peterson's" assignment: Stabilize a struggling education system in Snowflake. It is now said, "Joseph Peterson was the spark, which ignited the flame that made the Snowflake Stake Academy a successful reality."

Peterson was assisted and followed by many other gifted, community servants. A review of their names will connect you to most every Rim Country pioneer family, including David Flake's posterity.

What we want you to know is this: A symbol of the struggle to settle the West is a proud, stone building, the official Snowflake Stake Academy, lovingly referred to by Peterson and his wife, Amanda, as "Academy in the Wilderness."

Ironically, that building is again at the center of sacrifice, this time a fundraising effort towards restoration. And, yes, it now bears the name of Joseph Peterson.

Restoration will result in what will become the Snowflake-Taylor Public Library. The cost, reaching $2 million to acquire the best technology and history preservation systems. Putting it into perspective: The cost of the original structure was $11,000. That was before it was destroyed by fire in 1910, three months after its first completion. Let's talk about heartbreak.

It's a poignant saga of educating settlers, a story to break your heart in some places and mend it in others.

You won't want to miss the journey and, perhaps, you will feel inclined to send a contribution: www.snowflakeacademy.com or contact David Flake: rezflakes@aol.com.

(Turley-Hansen is an AZ syndicated columnist and former Phx TV newscaster; turleyhansen@gmail.com)

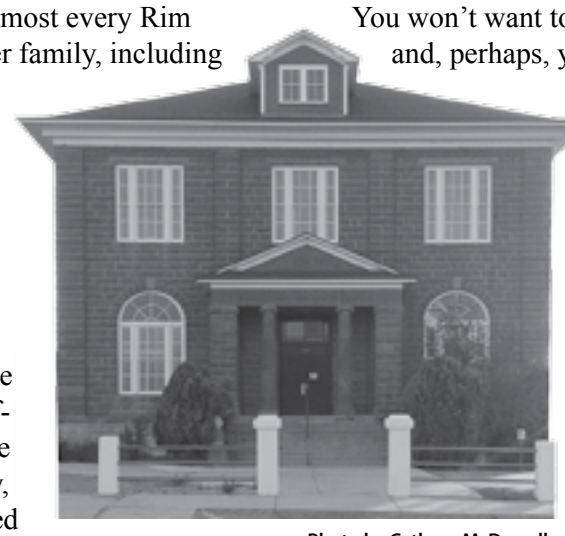

Photo by Cathryn McDowell

The historic 100-year -old Snowflake Stake Academy building is under renovation to be the Snowflake-Taylor Public Library.

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Teens Fall Prey to Pornography

From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

During years I spent raising six children, the oldest and youngest of which were born within seven years of each other—I vividly remember the constant desires to protect and nurture and "train up" my children to be responsible, God-loving, testimony-wielding individuals. Yet, my task as a mom was a bit different than it is for my four daughters who are raising children today.

I never had to think, "I wonder if my son viewed pornography today?" Or, "… I wonder if my daughter is sexting her boyfriend?"

I'm sure I missed some things of consequence that were certainly happening when my children were small—but it wasn't like today.

Pornography is a little like the dust my mother used to complain about. She would have everything looking sparkling clean and, within hours, there she was, standing in front of her hutch saying, "Look at this dust. How did this get here?"

Indeed, pornography is seeping in at the very seams of our lives, coating things around us and waiting—almost daring us to wipe it clean, only to find another inlet and settle again.

Pornography has been called the "new drug"—its sensational, addictive and, unlike other drugs—it can be free for the taking.

And, it's not just the kids we need to worry about. While we are protecting our children against the onslaught, our own southern flank may be open for attack.

According to Dr. Donald L. Hilton and his colleague, Dr. Clark Watts, revenue from pornography was $97 billion in 2006 (even more now, for sure). That sum is more than the worth of Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple and Netflix combined. Dr. Hilton and Dr. Watts observed: "This is no casual, inconsequential phenomenon, yet there is a tendency to trivialize the possible social and biologic effects of pornography."

$97 billion. Yet, we trivialize it, take it lightly. The Arizona Family Council recently held an Anti-Pornography Conference in Gilbert. Their website stated

"Ninety percent of 8- to 16-year olds have viewed porn online—and most of those say they had done so when they were supposed to have been working on homework," and "Forty million Americans regularly look at pornography."

It's staggering. And, sickening.

While much is being done—one of my daughters said they recently had a Primary Activity Day about pornography. The Church site at www.overcomingpornography.org offers invaluable tools.

Yet, until we admit that there could be a problem, until we take a lot at the dust settling around us, we aren't going to take evasive means.

One of the biggest problems with pornography is that people lie. They lie to others and to themselves, trying to pretend it's not there, trying to rationalize it away. So, how about taking your finger and writing in the dust—which is a sure way to see whether there's a problem. First write: Have I viewed pornography in the last week, month or several months?

Next, and this is most telling, ask yourself: Have I set a goal to stop looking at pornography and failed to reach that goal?

Perhaps it's time to protect our children—and to do a little cleaning of our own.

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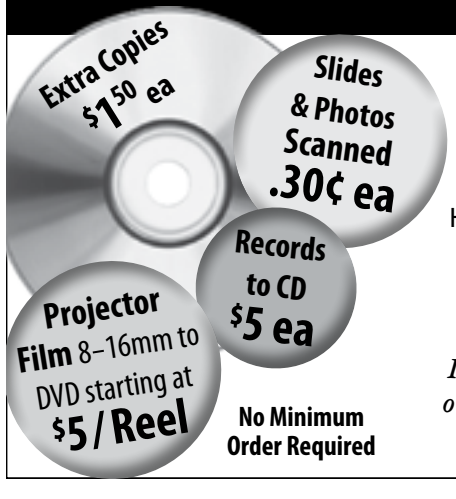

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The First Presidency and the Apostles are Now on Facebook & Google+

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

The First Presidency and the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints now have pages on Facebook and Google+.

Facebook and Google+ are social networking sites, where individuals create a personal profile and connect with others by "friending" them. You may network with family, friends and neighbors and colleagues or with others you "meet" on the site.

On your page, you can write thoughts and messages, called "posts" for others to see. You may also post and "share" pictures, videos and links to other sites on the Internet.

For Church leaders, the pages act as an official media presence. They also allow people to find modern words of living prophets more easily.

In today's world of increased Internet use, the pages are a good support for missionary work for both members and missionaries. Missionaries use Facebook, blogs, email and Mormon.org to track interested parties and answer questions.

"The Church must adapt to a changing world," says, Elder L Tom Perry, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

The "Sharing via Social Media" page on LDS.org explains some ways to use social media to share the gospel and includes a list of links to Church-related items on Facebook and Google+ pages. To know if a page is authentic, look for the official logo of the LDS Church.

While pages are maintained on behalf of the leaders, they may, on occasion, drop by to read or make comments.

There are pages for Thomas S Monson, Henry B Eyring, Dieter F Uchtdorf and each of the Twelve Apostles.

There are also pages for The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Mormon News Room, Mormon Channel, Mormon.org, Mormon Messages, Family History Library, LDS Seminary, LDS Institute and LDS Newsroom.

You can find Church magazine pages, including the Ensign Magazine, New Era Magazine, Friend Magazine, Liahona Magazine as well as pages for the Church History Museum, Family History Library, FamilySearch, Joseph Smith Papers, LDS Tech and Mobile Applications.

Or, check out the service-oriented pages, such as for Perpetual Education Fund in English, Church-Service Missionaries, Deseret Industries, LDS Church Employment and Helping in the Vineyard.

You can go to any of the Church-related pages, and, if you click on the icon to "like" that page, it will be placed in your own Facebook feed, so you can readily view it and share it with others. You also may invite friends to like and follow the pages.

Liking or following these pages is a way to share your faith as it lets your Facebook "friends" know what you believe.

Liking or following these pages is a way to share your faith as it lets your Facebook "friends" know what you believe.

In addition to liking a page, visitors may leave comments on the postings or link to talks, articles, photos, videos and other relevant content posted to each of the sites.

You will find there are many quotes and posters worthy of reposting or of pinning to Pinterest, a photo-sharing website that allows users to create collections that correlate with their hobbies and interests.

You may want to start by visiting the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' page, which had more than 808,000 likes.

AVISTA
SENIOR LIVING
Providing Excellent Care & Service to its Residents

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

In 2007, Harvard Business School graduate, Kris Woolley, of the Hermosa Vista Ward in Hermosa Vista Stake, began working for a national apartment development and management company that included a number of properties catering to seniors. He petitioned the company to expand into assisted living, but that wasn't the direction the company wanted to go. Kris knew that someday he would offer assisted living to seniors.

Four years later, the timing was right for Kris to branch out on his own. With the support of his wife and small children, Kris launched Avista Senior Living. They began with the acquisition of an existing 91-unit community in the heart of Mesa's historic district. Six months later, they acquired a second community in Phoenix with 149 units.

The Mesa property is located at 248 N. MacDonald St., a short drive to the Mesa Temple and across the street from the City of Mesa Senior Center. According to Kris, "the company prides itself on providing our residents wholesome activities for the mind, body and spirit."

They have Book of Mormon study groups and weekly outings to the temple as well as scheduled outings for shopping, banking and community events. The activities calendar is full with activities to satisfy a variety of interest—everything from Wii tournaments, crafts, card games, movies, to socials and more.

Each apartment boasts a full-size kitchen and spacious floor plan. Included in the price are utilities, laundry and cleaning service, restaurant-style dining, 24-hour care assistance, salon services, chapel, dog park, pool and many more amenities. Each resident has a care plan drafted to their individual needs, whether it is specialized care or more independent living.

Photo courtesy Avista Senior Living

Owner of Avista Senior Living, Kris Woolley , (l) and executive director Beau Ayers are passionate about providing excellent housing and care for their residents.

Avista is LDS-owned and operated. Kris says, "Avista's mission is to provide excellent housing and care for our residents. We have a team of people that reflect this culture."

In addition to the valuable service provided by the staff, Avista is a welcome place where full-time missionaries, ward youth groups and others come to serve. The residents belong to the Centennial Ward in the Mesa North Stake and Avista works closely with the bishop to serve the needs of the LDS residents.

Beau Ayers, of the Fairway Groves Ward, Alta Mesa Stake, and executive director for Avista remarks, "I've never seen a management company like this…I was surprised to see that the owner knew the residents names and interests. You don't see that in this business very often."

Kris adds, "We have a wonderful team and we are passionate about what we do. Simply stated, we love our residents."

To learn more about Avista, visit www.avistaseniorliving.com, or call 602-997-6224 to schedule a free tour and consultation.

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Honeyville Farms

Offers Foods for Emergencies & for Everyday Enjoyment

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Honeyville Farms is a bulk grain, flour, food storage and emergency preparedness provider. "From powdered peanut butter to freeze dried strawberries, we've got it," says Tim Devey, Retail Marketing Manager .

When the company opened a retail store in Chandler Arizona in 2009, it was pioneering new territory. Yet, some things were not new. The organization brought with it an established tradition of treating people with respect, fairness and integrity, just as the founder, Lowell Sherratt, Sr., had when he began the company in the 1950s in Utah.

The Chandler store is one of four retail locations, with two in Utah and one in California. In addition, Honeyville Farms has an online presence and ships orders throughout the United States.

Retail manager, Michelle Nielsen, says, "Helping customers find peace of mind is the best part of working at Honeyville Farms."

"People come in looking for the security of knowing they are prepared," says Michelle. She says it is rewarding to see "people come in with that 'deer in the headlights' look. But as you go over people's questions and help them understand, you see that whole terrified look leave."

She says the staff at Honeyville "know what they are doing and can help you to know how to survive in times of crisis, but also how to cook in general" and to use food storage items in everyday meal planning.

"We teach them how to maintain, rotate and use their food storage, not just for emergencies, but for everyday cooking." Michelle says.

Along with the one-on-one assistance, Honeyville Farms provides many handouts, hands on classes, demonstrations, and endless amounts of information. Helpful suggestions also are available on the website, and, "We have free cooking classes," Michelle says.

Photo by Cecily Markland

At the Honeyville Farms store in Chandler, customers find a wide selection of products, attend classes, receive helpful hints and have their questions answered by knowledgeable staff, including (l to r) Clarissa Cones, cashier; Tyler Jackson, Retail Assistant Manager and Michelle Nielsen, Retail Manager.

A wide variety of classes, many of them taught by Honeyville's corporate Chef Stephanie Peterson (aka Chef Tess), helps customers visualize how to prepare food and give them a chance to sample items before buying.

"Chef Tess has such a love and passion for what she does and classes help get people excited about cooking," Michelle says.

"Here at Honeyville Farms we are creating an experience. You can go to many stores and give them money, but we want more than that," says Tim. "We value the people that come into our stores. … We want to educate our customers and the community on how to be prepared. We don't just want people to buy our food, we want them to know how to use it and why."

Honeyville Farms is located at 33 S. 56th St. in Chandler and is open Monday through Friday 9 am to 6 pm, Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. They can be reached by calling 480-785-5210 or visiting www.honeyvillegrain.com.

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Technologically Advanced Hearing Aids:

Founded by a

Father's Promise to his Daughter

Photo courtesy Zounds Hearing

To help his hearing-impaired daughter, Kate, and to address some of the problems he saw with traditional hearing aids, Sam Thomasson engineered a new kind of hearing aid and founded Zounds Hearing.

By Amanda Henrikson
The Beehive

Sam Thomasson, of the Higley Groves Ward, Highland West Stake, has witnessed firsthand the many problems with today's hearing aids. His daughter, Kate, is profoundly hearing impaired. Having witnessed her frustrations with traditional hearing aids, Sam, an accomplished engineer, promised her that he would fix these problems. Fifty-seven patents later, that promise became Zounds Hearing.

Zounds, established 2005 in Phoenix, is working in the interest of the hearing impaired. Cutting costs and creating a superior product are very important to Sam, "even though I paid $7,000 for Kate's aids, she still struggled to understand speech and hear in noisy environments. Many of Kate's challenges were directly caused by her traditional aids; I knew I had to do something about it."

To cover the spectrum of problems, Sam based his designs on a study identifying the top 10 complaints of hearing aid wearers. Sam highlights three he is most proud of:

Noise reduction. "The $7000 aids that claimed to have noise reduction simply reduced the overall volume." Yet, Kate's inability to hear in noisy environments–like school, restaurants and family gatherings–was a major frustration for her.

As an engineer, this was unacceptable to Sam, so he developed two technologies that could differentiate between human sounds and other sounds like wind or road noise and create a cone of listening in noisy conditions. The combination of the technologies gets rid of 90 percent of unwanted background noise, while enhancing voice.

Battery life. "Over the years my wife has made many runs to school or an event with new batteries for Kate." To answer this issue, he created rechargeable batteries that hold a charge for 18 hours, recharging at night in the charging station.

Cost. "I have seen too many folks wearing inferior hearing aids–or none at all–due to the exorbitant cost of these vital devices. With Zounds, you get our superior product through company-owned stores and franchises, at factory-direct prices. No middlemen means no mark-up."

Kate's life changed the moment she put on Zounds aids. She could hear sounds she had been struggling to imitate, the "t," "s" and "ch" sounds that were outside the range of traditional aids.

Kate is now a college student, studying electrical engineering. With dreams of following in her father's footsteps, Kate interns at Zounds, helping develop new technologies she will benefit from herself.

Being able to impact his daughter's future has been a great blessing to Sam and the Thomasson family and has benefited thousands of others. "I am thankful for the thousands who become customers and now friends," Sam says. "This started out as something I needed to do for Kate, but became bigger than both of us. It is incredibly rewarding to have helped so many."

To find out more about Zounds, visit www.ZoundsHearing.com

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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

I want to go back to kindergarten, that place full of curiosity, wonderment, and new beginnings, a time of enchantment, wide-eyed innocence, and dream-filled passion, where doubt and worry seem almost nonexistent and where fresh enthusiasm abounds.

Just a few short weeks ago, I took my youngest child to embark upon her own first day of kindergarten. She was ready, fresh faced and hair braided, with a brand-new backpack in tow.

As I walked her to the playground, she grasped my hand tightly. I gave her a reaffirming squeeze. After all, I was a professional at first days of kindergarten, I'd done this routine five times before with her five older siblings.

But somehow, this time was different. I had conflicting emotions about the entire scenario for weeks. I was thrilled for her to embark upon this new adventure, but I was also melancholy about sending my last child away to school. This would be the final time I would experience a kindergarten first.

We made our way through the throngs of excited children, finding the correct line for her to stand in. I encouraged her to make new friends as she bashfully hid behind me. It was all a bit overwhelming.

I still hadn't quite decided how to feel about the whole kindergarten scene when the school bell rang and a sea of pint-sized youngsters swallowed us whole. It was finally time and I had run out of it.

My mind reeled. I desperately wanted to go to class with her. I yearned to be present when she squished her petite fingers into cold, wet finger-paints. I craved to join her adventures into picture books and delve into the intricacies of the alphabet together. I longed to relish in her exhilaration of learning, bask in her scrawling artwork, and bathe in her precious laughter and innocuous optimism.

The teacher swooped in, welcoming her students, knowingly nodding towards each hesitant parent. My kindergartener tugged at my sleeve. I knelt beside her and she hugged me tight, whispering, "I'm going to be brave, Mom!"

I hugged her back and felt the tears stinging, desperately desiring to accompany her further. I gave her a wink and she toddled off, stealing my heart in the process. I stood, dumbfounded, wondering whether or not I should follow the class.

The children walked towards a brick fence and began to disappear behind it, one by one. This was my last chance, I had to take advantage of it. My daughter was walking further towards her new adventure and further away from me.

Just before she rounded the corner, she turned and faced my direction. She lifted a chubby arm towards the sky and frantically waved good-bye. She blew me a kiss and then was gone.

I wanted to run after her, to join her momentous quest for knowledge and greatness, but my time had passed. My newfound mothering role was now to wait in the wings while she learned her newfound kindergarten role. This was the last time I would experience a first day of kindergarten and my essence seemed heavy and somber.

For many years, I have enthusiastically accompanied my precious children to their first days of kindergarten, snapping photos of their momentous occasions, merrily observing. But, this time was different.

I want to go back to kindergarten, unfortunately, they won't let forty-something mothers return. It's a right of passage that no longer applies to me, but to my youngest child. I can't help but to drag my feet, wishing she wouldn't grow up so fast, as we conquer this unwelcomed milestone together.

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Benchmark Interiors

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Photo by Cecily Markland

At Benchmark Interiors, Kevin Young (l) and owner Don LeSueur have earned a reputation for offering a wide range of flooring options, along with excellent service and long-time experience in the flooring industry.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For carpet, tile, wood or any other type of flooring, Benchmark Interiors is a complete flooring specialist store, offering competitive prices, confidence and quality workmanship.

From his beautiful, easily accessible store in East Mesa, Benchmark Interiors owner Don LeSueur carries on what has been a 37-year tradition—that of working directly with customers to provide them the best possible service and direction.

"When it comes to flooring, we do some of everything, from commercial, including dental and doctors' offices, to new construction, to working with those who are remodeling or 'flipping' homes as investments," Don says.

A member of Emerald Acres Ward, Mesa South Stake, Brother LeSueur says he runs the business with his son, Russell, who does window coverings, such as shutters and blinds, as well as flooring. Working with Don and Russ, are Kevin Young and Bob Flaherty, who have been together since their 27-year stint at the Carpet Company and then at Landmark Interiors in Mesa.

"We worked together for years. Then, when Dennis Barney sold Landmark eight years ago, I opened up my own place," Don says.

Kevin, Bob and Don are able to handle all the sales, measuring, service and administrative concerns of the business, and they sub out the installation to reputable craftsmen that they have worked with for years.

At Benchmark, customers find a unique atmosphere of friendly expertise.

"Customers like being able to work with the owner," Brother LeSueur says. That gives them a sense of confidence, he says, as does the fact that, "We follow through with any problems and concerns."

Bottom line, Brother LeSueur says, Benchmark Interiors offers customers a quality, confident buying experience.

"We try to take care of our customers so they are happy," he says.

In addition, Don adds, pricing is another thing that makes customers happy and encourages them to send referrals to Benchmark.

"We are very competitive pricewise," he says.

They buy from most of the big carpet mills, so they offer all the well-known brands of carpet, including Tuftex, Shaw, Mohawk, Beaulieu, Royalty, Camelot and Dream Weaver. Benchmark Interiors is also known for their wide range of options in hardwood flooring, laminate, ceramic and porcelain tile and travertine.

Benchmark Interiors serves the East Valley and the Phoenix metro area. Their showroom is located at 1614 N. Higley Road, on the northwest corner of Higley and Baseline roads in Gilbert. They are open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays and by appointment on Saturdays. The Benchmark Interiors website gives additional details, including information about many of the flooring brands they carry. Their website can be accessed at www.benchmarkinteriorsaz.com. To make an appointment or to speak to Don, Kevin, or Bob, call 480-218-8790 or email donl@azbmi.com.

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Scott Overstreet
Arizona Agency Manager
(480) 425-5100 ext. 5805
Scott_Overstreet@Sagicor.com

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The BEEHIVE Business Directory

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Nu Home Design
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www.thehomedesigner.net
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www.ballardac.com
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Assisted Living

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480-245-6363

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248 N. MacDonald
Mesa, AZ 85201
480-827-2222

Bee Hive Homes
bsearle@beehivehomes.com
www.beehivehomes.com
480-332-3099
Mesa & Apache Junction

Pleasant Living
LDS Assisted Living
jzungailo@gmail.com
623-214-3333

Auto

Horne Kia
scooper@hornekia.com
www.hornekia.com
888-297-6440

Invision Auto Body
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Mesa, AZ 85206
www.InvisionAutoBody.com
480-503-1414

LeSueur Car Company
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Deseret Book
144 S. Mesa Dr. #A
Mesa, AZ 85210
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Latter Day Cottage
2820 E. University #102
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480-832-8433

Latter Day Cottage
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Tucson, AZ 85710
520-885-2635

Carpet & Tile Cleaning

Aloha Carpet & Tile Cleaning
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Mesa, AZ 85216
480-452-2667

Marco's Carpet Cleaning & Upholstery
marcos.carpet.cleaning@gmail.com
www.marcoscarpetcleaning.com
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Clothing

Crismon's Baby Boutique
Blessing & Baptism Clothing
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www.crismonsbaby.com

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Phoenix, AZ
602-995-8822

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480-964-8738

Counseling

David C. Hubbard, Ph. D., P.L.C. Psychologist
1237 S. Val Vista Dr.
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www.dhubbard.org
480-776-3386

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Utah College of Dental Hygiene
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Provo/Orem, UT
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www.asu.edu
480-965-2100

Mesa Public Schools
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www.mpsaz.org
480-472-0000

Electrician

Ferrin Electric Co. Inc.
ferrinelectric@yahoo.com
www.ferrinelectric.net
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AAA Duplicating
Bcarm47@aol.com
AAAduplicating.vpweb.com
480-747-7431

Flooring

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Gilbert, AZ 85234
480-218-8790

Castle Floors
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Mesa, AZ 85205
480-396-6956

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Honeyville Farms
33 S. 56th St., Ste. 1
Chandler, AZ 85226
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Chandler, AZ 85225
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www.azlegacyfuneralhome.com

Meldrum Mortuary & Crematory
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480-834-9255

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Handyman Repairs

Just Fix It
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Insurance

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Mesa, AZ 85206
480-830-0046
brenthenningson@allstate.com

State Farm Insurance – Kimball Porter
1847 S. Greenfield Rd., #107
Mesa, AZ 85206
www.kporterinsurance.com
480-892-1779

Internet Radio

yourLDSRadio.com
252 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
801-331-8781 x123
jeff@yourldsradio.com

yourLDSmusicstore.com
252 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
info@yourldsmusicstore.com

Kitchen Supplies

Shar's Bosch Kitchen Center Inc.
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Gilbert, AZ 85234
480-558-1191

Lawyers

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info@brysonlegal.com
www.brysonlegal.com
480-813-0444

Butler Law Office
406 E. Southern
Tempe, AZ 85282
480-921-0626
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1930 N. Arboleda, Ste. 216
Mesa, AZ 85213
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www.hawkinsandhawkins.com

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480-833-1113
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Mesa, AZ 85203
480-833-4488

Law Offices of Wilford Taylor
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Mesa, AZ 85209
480-985-4445

Lodging

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480-621-6375

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www.doubletreephoenixgilbert.com
480-809-4052

Medical / Health

Family Allergy Clinic
3048 E. Baseline Rd., #122
Mesa, AZ
www.familyallergyclinic.com
480-827-9945

The Little Clinic
jatkins@thelittleclinic.com
www.thelittleclinic.com
480-809-2409

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progers@womenshealtharizona.com
www.womenshealtharizona.com
480-963-7900

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Mesa, AZ 85206
480-258-6050

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Pomeroy's Missionary Store
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Mesa, AZ 85201
480-833-0733 or 1-800-818-6848

Passport Health
Tempe, Gilbert, Phx, Scottsdale, Glendale,
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www.passporthealthaz.com
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Party Supplies

Jones' Ice Cream Machine Rental
Weddings, Birthdays, Special Occasions
480-545-1616

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